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visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited the General Headquarters (GHQ), where he was met by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Taha, the chief of staff and the Joint Intelligence, Public and Civil Defence Director, the King and Field Marshal Abdul Taha discussed the meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Hassan.

sweep continues

AMMAN (AP) — Police Wednesday continued for the second day a security sweep of a Muslim stronghold west of Amman and arrested dozens more. The total to more than 100. Police said security forces set up 153 Muslim militants in a district in two raids at Wednesday. This brings the number of arrests to 411 in all.

in Taiz

AMMAN (AP) — A number of strikers were reportedly shot Wednesday in riot police in the Yemeni city of Taiz. Local residents, however, said the strikers were not shot. They said the strikers were shot through the city at morning shouting anti-government slogans protesting inflation and deteriorating economic conditions. They said the strikers were shot in government buildings, vehicles and shops at the city in Mayhouth. Police said scores of demonstrators were injured and a number were killed.

boycotts meeting

AMMAN (R) — Qatar Wednesday held another ministerial meeting of a Gulf Arab alliance border row with Saudi Arabia, reinforcing reports that it is away from this month's summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Officials at GCC headquarters in Riyadh said Saudi Arabia was absent when ministers met and electricity in the city and economic alliance discuss a plan to link their cities in a common power grid. Saudi Arabia has boycotted all ministerial meetings since a border clash with Saudi Arabia in which three people died. Diplomats say they expect also stay away from the summit.

threatens EC

VIV (R) — Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has threatened to make life miserable for European Community unless it confronts rising anti-Semitism in Israel. Rabin quoted him Wednesday. "If the European Community does not stand up, we'll make life miserable," Mr. Rabin said. "This is our role as a state," he told the Tuesday meeting, appealing for the EC summit in Edinburgh to give top priority to fighting racism and neo-fascism.

remarks denied

AMMAN (AP) — An official state Wednesday denied remarks attributed to a Minister General Hussein. The statement from the Ministry said that Hussein never made those remarks and that he did not support the government's position on the views of the official who spoke at a majority political research meeting.

Americans storm Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S. Marines rolled into Mogadishu Wednesday in a bloodless push and quickly took control of the Somali capital to rescue a relief operation from marauding gunmen.

Fears the vanguard force of 1,800 troops would be met by violence evaporated when thousands of ordinary Somalis, weary of living in a dark age, turned out to greet them.

Cobra helicopter gunships whirled over the shattered city, giving an impression of a capital under occupation. But the mood among its million inhabitants was one of an unscheduled national holiday.

The opening moves of the operation appeared to go off like clockwork. More pictures were taken than prisoners.

But special U.S. envoy Robert Oakley said the next move, deeper into Somalia, could prove more troublesome. "When you get farther into the interior, you get people who want to make trouble," he said.

It remained unclear whether U.S. forces would aggressively try to disarm the Somali clans, who have fought for control of the country since toppling authoritarian President Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991.

Disarming the Somalis is not our stated mission, "Colonel Fred Pack, a U.S. military spokesman in Mogadishu, told the U.S.-based NBC broadcasting network. "Obviously we're going to end up disarming some Somalis. But those will be Somalis we run into."

Hours after Marines hit the beaches, giant air force transport planes and a food-relief flight were touching down at the Marine-held airport.

The statement, however, stopped short of condemning the deployment of American troops in Somalia as an "invasion" of the Horn of Africa country as a Muslim Brotherhood motion passed by the House Sunday demanded.

Brotherhood deputies said the American move was another "colonial attack" at the Arab World aimed at "besieging Sudan and occupying land in the African continent ahead of invading it."

Leftists and pan-Arabist deputies supported the motion.

U.S. troops began arriving in

airport. Marines and navy commandos, sweeping in before dawn by sea and air, met no resistance.

Instead, thousands of Somalis, some in rage, flocked to the shore to watch the huge military movement.

Young gunmen who long terrorised Mogadishu disappeared, apparently moving into the city's ruins or the countryside.

However, word of new unrest came from the southern port of Kismayo, where a night of looting and shooting forced the U.N. World Food Programme to evacuate 13 foreign aid workers by air.

Later in the day, the United Nations confirmed that a civilian worker for the U.N. peacekeeping operation was shot in the arm outside U.N. headquarters in the Somali capital.

In Mogadishu, the Marines swiftly secured the airport and seaport, gateways for the planned effort to re-establish a food pipeline to the hundreds of thousands threatened by famine.

Other countries will help, and about 80 French soldiers arrived Wednesday and began deploying around a crossroads that is one of the main routes to northern Somalia.

Under U.N. sponsorship, the Americans will guard aid deliveries that have been hostage to thousands of armed extortionists, some loyal to rebel factions, some simply freelance thieves.

Looting of food shipments and interference by rebel leaders had paralysed the relief effort, and 300,000 Somalis died of starvation, disease and warfare.

The point men of the American landing, staged from a three-ship navy force offshore, were two dozen navy frogmen and Marines who crawled up Green Beach, adjacent to the airport, just after midnight.

The commandos, faces smeared with black-and-green camouflage cream, found no opposition — only scores of waiting journalists.



A U.S. Marine aims his machinegun at a group of local residents on a pick-up truck in Mogadishu Wednesday as another checks the vehicle for arms shortly after the deployment of first American troops in the Somali capital (AFP photo)

The glare of television lights, spoiling the stealth of the advance team, led U.S. officials to complain. But the television networks pointed out that the Marines told them they could freely cover the beaches.

Before dawn, the main force began arriving, rumbling up out of the Indian Ocean in camouflage-painted amphibious vehicles, and over the dunes to the airport. Marines leaped out and took up positions at the control tower, and soon navy transport helicopters were bringing in platoons of Marines.

The marines took no chances. At one point they detained a half-dozen Somalis at the airport, making them lie on the ground, but they were eventually freed when it was determined they were airport employees.

A U.N. contingent of 500 Pakistani soldiers has been bottled up at the airport since September.

Other Marines clambered over shortline rocks at Mogadishu's seaport. There, too, they encountered about 50 journalists and ordered them to lie flat.

Gunfire broke out, but the circumstances were unclear. Reporters said Marines fired warning shots over their heads, trying to get them to back off.

The Marines did not move immediately into central Mogadishu, a whitewashed, equatorial city of a half million people. But the capital was unusually quiet — especially with the absence of gun-mounted vehicles used by the young Somali marauders.

"I don't need this gun anymore," said 24-year-old bodyguard Osman (Continued on page 2)

On Tuesday, Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians in clashes, one in Gaza's refugee camp of Rafah and the other in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour. Troops enforced a curfew on Beit Sahour and the West Bank town of Dibu for a second day Wednesday.

Along some roads leading from the West Bank to Israel, police and army set up roadblocks. In the Biblical town of Bethlehem, soldiers searched Palestinian-owned cars and checked identity papers of drivers en route to Jerusalem.

The general strike marking the uprising anniversary was strictly observed by the Palestinians throughout the occupied lands. Shops were shuttered and most students stayed home from school.

Bethlehem was deserted. On Manger Square opposite the Church of the Nativity, souvenir shops and snack bars were closed, and tourists stayed away.

Graffiti scribbled on a wall outside a Bethlehem girl's school read "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin must know that the uprising will continue."

Palestinian revolt enters sixth year

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip closed shops and stayed home from work Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of their uprising against Israeli occupation.

Underground leaders of the revolt have called for increased violence against Israel to mark the day. Police and army deployed reinforcements to prevent attacks.

Israeli troops closed Gaza for a second day Wednesday, barring the 800,000 Palestinians of the coastal strip from entering Israel. Much of Gaza was also placed under curfew for a second day, confining some 300,000 people to their homes.

The restrictions were imposed after militants shot and killed three Israeli soldiers in Gaza Monday. The Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas has claimed responsibility.

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camp of Rafah and the other in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour. Troops enforced a curfew on Beit Sahour and the West Bank town of Dibu for a second day Wednesday.

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Peace talks suspended on intifada anniversary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks were suspended for a day Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

Israeli officials said they were notified of the suspension by Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators, and that separate Israeli talks with Lebanon and Syria were off for the days as well. They are expected to resume Thursday.

"It is a special day and because of that the Palestinian team and other Arab teams will refrain from negotiations," said Dr. Mamdouh Al Aker, a member of the team who stayed behind in the occupied lands for the eighth round of talks.

The Palestinians sent only four delegates to the eighth round to protest at what they called Israel's intransigence at the talks.

"It is a day of remembrance, remembrance of the martyrs, of those who are in ... Israel jails," another delegate, told Israel radio on the anniversary.

"I think the fact that the revolt is continuing after five years, and despite all the repression and all the sophisticated methods Israel used against it is something to be proud of," Dr. Aker said.

In Washington on Tuesday, Israel publicly urged Syria to

improve its peace proposal, hinting it would be willing to surrender territory on the Golan Heights in exchange.

But the chief Syrian negotiator, Mawaffaq Al Alfi, said his side had already made a very detailed and open offer to Israel. And, according to a diplomatic source, Syria did not modify it during Tuesday's session.

Consequently, Israel held back, waiting for "further clarification from the Syrian side, hopefully in the next several days," said the source, insisting on anonymity.

While there was a wide gap between the two positions, peace talks proceeded at the State Department, and Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich told reporters, "We should rule out the word 'impossible'."

Mr. Rabinovich, who is to become Israel's new ambassador here in January, said Syria was offering a "non-belligerence" in exchange for the strategic Golan Heights.

"It is true that five years ago non belligerence would have been quite a bit in Syrian-Israeli relations," he said, "but this is not where we are today."

Mr. Rabinovich said Israel (Continued on page 5)

House blames Arabs for 'U.S. foothold in Horn of Africa'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday deplored the complacency with which the Arab Nation reacted to the crisis in Somalia and blamed it for giving foreign powers the "opportunity" to enter "a strategic part of the Arab World and the African continent."

The lack of Arab action to defuse the crisis and the suffering of the Somali people gave "antagonist Western powers the opportunity to establish a foothold in this strategic part of the Arab World and the African continent under a humanitarian cover," the House said in a statement.

The West has been long waiting for a chance to "deal with" regimes in the area that oppose its plans, the statement said.

The statement, however, stopped short of condemning the deployment of American troops in Somalia as an "invasion" of the Horn of Africa country as a Muslim Brotherhood motion passed by the House Sunday demanded.

Brotherhood deputies said the American move was another "colonial attack" at the Arab World aimed at "besieging Sudan and occupying land in the African continent ahead of invading it."

Leftists and pan-Arabist deputies supported the motion.

U.S. troops began arriving in

Somalia Wednesday after the United Nations Security Council sanctioned the deployment of international forces in the country in an effort to protect international aid supplies to millions of starving Somalis.

Jordan has not been invited to contribute troops to the U.N. operation, but Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the government would "constructively" consider such a request by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Sharif said that someone had to intervene in the conflict in Somalia in light of the catastrophic situation there and in the absence of other alternatives.

By U.N. estimates, more than 300,000 have died in Somalia while millions are starving. Until last week's Security Council decision to send troops to protect aid supplies, the international reaction to the two-year conflict has been restricted to offering humanitarian and food supplies that rarely reached the Somali people.

In its statement, the House called on Arab, Muslim and international communities to prevent foreign powers from exploiting the "tragic situation in Somalia to achieve malicious expansionist designs."

The House decried the "double standards of the United Nations," which, it said, is led by the United States and "wondered" about the reasons why the international body reacted so belatedly to the situation in Somalia "while international forces invaded Iraq upon the eruption of the Gulf crisis."

The victim, Muayyad Hassan Naji Al Janabi, was shot in the head Monday on a busy street in the capital as he and his wife and two children went to pick up visas for Libya, where he had found work as a teacher.

Mr. Janabi, an employee of Iraq's Ministry of Military Industrialisation who previously worked for the country's Atomic Energy Commission, had been due to return home two weeks earlier from holiday in Jordan.

Security officials have arrested two Iraqi men suspected of involvement in the murder, the first of its kind in Jordan in years.

Authorities are keeping a tight lid on the investigation but the killing has angered Jordanian officials.

"The assailant is a high-ranking operative of the Iraqi intelligence," a Jordanian source close to the investigation said Wednesday.

He declined to give further details but his account was confirmed by other government officials.

They say several facts point to Baghdad, whose Amman embassy blamed the killing on Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Lower House votes to restrict press coverage of several areas

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turning down the recommendation of its Law Committee, the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday adopted a controversial article in the draft press and publication law as presented by the government.

The committee had recommended that article 42 of the draft law be eliminated but the majority of the House endorsed the article after a hasty debate of only three of the 10 items included in it.

The article bans the publication of news items that harm the King or the Royal family and information on the strength of the Armed Forces, their ammunition, weapons and movement unless it

is authorised by a responsible army official.

The article also makes taboo of publishing news items that defame religions protected by the Constitution or articles "that hurt national unity and instigate crime and hatred ... in society."

The article also bans the publication of news items on secret sessions of Parliament and articles "that shake the confidence in the national currency."

Articles and news items that "include insult of heads of state of Arab, Muslim and friendly countries and the heads of the diplomatic missions and their accredited members in the Kingdom" as well as reports that "harm the dignity of individuals, their freedom, and reputation" are also banned by the article.

(Continued on page 2)

Iraq agent killed fleeing engineer, source reports

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — The killer of an Iraqi nuclear engineer murdered in Amman was an Iraqi intelligence agent, a Jordanian source close to the investigation said Wednesday.

The victim, Muayyad Hassan Naji Al Janabi, was shot in the head Monday on a busy street in the capital as he and his wife and two children went to pick up visas for Libya, where he had found work as a teacher.

Mr. Janabi, an employee of Iraq's Ministry of Military Industrialisation who previously worked for the country's Atomic Energy Commission, had been due to return home two weeks earlier from holiday in Jordan.

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Charles and Diana to separate but no divorce

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana have agreed to separate but not to divorce, Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday, confirming years of speculation of a royal romance gone sour.

"This decision has been reached amicably and they will both continue to participate fully in the upbringing of their children," Mr. Major said, reading a statement issued by Buckingham Palace.

Because there will be no divorce, Mr. Major said, Princess Diana remained eligible to be crowned queen. The couple will continue to appear together in public from time to time, he added.

"The queen and the duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip), though saddened, understand and sympathise with the difficulties that have led to this decision. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness particularly hope that the intrusions into the privacy of the prince and the princess may now cease," Mr. Major said, reading from the palace's announcement.

"I'm sure that I speak for the whole house and millions of people in offering our support for both the prince and the princess of Wales. I am also sure that the house will sympathise with the wish that they should both be afforded a degree of privacy," Mr. Major added in a personal statement.

The same statement was read to the House of Lords by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor.

The romance of the serious-minded Prince Charles and the bashful kindergarten teacher captured the world's attention. Their marriage at St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981, followed by a lingering kiss on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, was a global television spectacular.

Princess Diana bore two sons — William in 1982 and Henry in 1984 — and became the public's darling.

Recent opinion polls found the public overwhelmingly sided with Princess Diana in the couple's presumed marital problems.

Former Prime Minister Edward Heath said that Mr. Major's announcement of the split "must be one of the saddest announcements made by any prime minister in modern times."

"We could now be witnessing the end of the monarchy and the reigning queen could possibly be the last," said Maverick left-winger Dennis Skinner, who said the monarchy had pushed "the self-destruct button."

To cheers from Conservative and Labour legislators, Mr. Major reported: "We live in a monarchy and, if I may speak personally, I hope and believe we always will."

Both Prince Charles and Prince Diana carried out separate public appearances during the day.

It was the most stunning announcement of what Queen Elizabeth II recently confessed was a horrible year.

Violence rages in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — Afghan fighter jets bombed the Presidential palace and the defence ministry Wednesday, the fifth day of fierce fighting between rival rebel groups.

It was unclear who was responsible for the bombing, but Afghan sources claimed the planes were being flown by forces loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Ever since the change in leadership, the war-weary Afghan capital has been terrorised by fighting among rebel groups vying for control.

The latest fighting erupted Friday and steadily escalated between Hezb-e-Wahadat, an Iranian backed coalition of minority Shiites, and forces backing Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud.

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Drive launched against American 'campus branch' in West Bank

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab Americans have launched a campaign against a plan by an American university to build a "branch campus" in the Israeli-occupied territories saying it would constitute a de facto recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Palestinian land.

The Washington-based Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which has a record of working against American actions which could undermine Arab and Palestinian interests, is calling on everyone to write to the head of the University of New Haven (UNH) as well as the acting secretary of state, Lawrence Eagleburger, to protest the university's plan.

According to an ADC press release, the UNH announced its intention on Nov. 23 to build the branch campus to be named Hasharon Campus of the University of New Haven in a Jewish settlement about 18 kilometers from Tel Aviv in the occupied West Bank.

UNH President Lawrence J. DeNardis was quoted as saying that the campus was to be built on land "owned by no-one," and that it would be open to Palestinian students. But the ADC points out that the claim was questioned even by a senior member of the Israeli coalition government, Education Minister Shulamit Aloni of the Meretz

party, who wrote Mr. DeNardis "inquiring" whether he knew the land on which the campus was to be built is occupied territory and that its construction would violate American foreign policy and international law.

According to the Israeli newspaper Maariv, Ms. Aloni also told Mr. DeNardis that "the policy of the extension (branch campus) will be based on discriminating against the Arabs."

Ms. Aloni's Meretz, a major partner in the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, advocates Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the 1967 war and the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

In an Aug. 23 letter to the university, Ms. Aloni expressed her "legal and foreign policy concerns with the project." The ADC is demanding that this letter be made public by Mr. DeNardis.

The ADC is asking its members and supporters to write to Mr. DeNardis that "although possibly well-intentioned, construction of a campus in any part of the West Bank without Palestinian permission is de facto recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the occupied territories — which the U.S. and the U.N. do not recognise as part of Israel."

Other points that are to be mentioned in the protests, the ADC says, are:

— By constructing a branch campus in the West Bank, UNH will be leading its good name to "legitimizing military occupation."

The move would help institutionalize Israeli settlement activity, thereby undermining the peace process.

— Settlements in occupied terri-

tory are explicitly forbidden in Section 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and locating a UNH branch campus in a Jewish settlement would be aiding and abetting the violation of international law and would violate human rights.

Furthermore, it says, UNH did not consult any West Bank Palestinian educational institutions before embarking on the project and did not interview any Palestinians for faculty positions.

Instead, it says, the university invited Israelis, not Palestinians, to a press reception Mr. DeNardis held on Nov. 23.

In any case, the tuition fee of the university is beyond the reach of most Palestinian students and thus would be inaccessible to them, the ADC says, pointing out that "Jewish settlers enjoy a subsidised, higher standard of living."

Another question to be put to the university is the "logic behind UNH building a campus in a Jewish settlement since Israel consistently closes Palestinian universities in the occupied territories."

Bir Zeit University, the biggest in the West Bank, is a classic example of the Israeli practice of trying to curb Palestinian education. Bir Zeit was closed for almost three and a half years in the past five years.

Under the ADC campaign, the protest letters are to be sent to Mr. Lawrence J. DeNardis, University of New Haven, 300 Orange Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516; Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger, Acting Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520; and Representative Ross DeLauro, 265 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510.

Iraq says allies burnt its crops

ROME (R) — Iraq has accused the United States and Britain of deliberately firebombing its crops.

"At the middle of the year, British and U.S. bombers bombed large expanses used for wheat and barley," Iraqi Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabbagh told a conference on nutrition sponsored by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

He also accused the two Western allies of having targeted civilians during the 1991 Gulf war. The charges were rejected by British and U.S. spokesmen.

Mr. Sabbagh accused the allies of trying to bring Baghdad to its knees by continuing to enforce a U.N. embargo imposed shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

He called for the blockade to be lifted and said his delegation would ask the Rome conference

to explicitly condemn any embargo of food and medicine for "political purposes."

"The embargo has been in force for two years. 170,000 children are undernourished and some have died," Mr. Sabbagh told reporters later.

He said Baghdad had fulfilled 95 per cent of the conditions the U.N. imposed on Iraq when it was driven from Kuwait and it was now time the sanctions were eased.

The terms of a U.N. resolution that would allow Baghdad to sell crude oil to finance food and medicine shipments was unacceptable, Mr. Sabbagh added.

WFP short of cash

A senior U.N. official said Tuesday he would be able to feed Iraqi Kurds for the winter but he lacked funds for needy people in the south of the country.

"Donors are more sympathetic to the north," said Mohammad Saleheen, U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) director of operations.

He said the needs of the north were more or less fully assured for the period of the current agreement with the Baghdad government but the WFP was still trying to feed about half a million needy people in the rest of Iraq.

"As of now we don't have any firm pledges," he added.

He said the Iraqi government had expressed concern that aid was more biased to the north.

"The government is very keen to see this agreement implemented fairly."

A memorandum of understanding signed by the United Nations and Baghdad in October sets out conditions under which the U.N. can operate in Iraq through to next March and organise winter relief for Iraqi Kurds.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Three Bahraini activists sentenced

MANAMA (R) — A Bahraini accused of spying for Iran has been jailed for three years by the state security court, defence lawyers said Tuesday. Two other Bahrainis were sentenced to a year each. They were freed because they had already been detained for more than 12 months. All three men had been charged with membership of a banned political group — identified as the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain — and possessing anti-government literature. The court cleared eight others of security-related charges. Most of the 11 Bahrainis, all Shiite Muslims, were arrested in mid-1990 and freed on bail in late 1991. The verdict was originally due in February 1992 and then in May and was finally delivered Monday. The three-year sentence was imposed on Sadeq Jaafar Mohammad Ali, 30, who had been charged with spying for Iran, joining the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, encouraging disrespect for the Bahraini authorities and having anti-government literature, the lawyers said. He served eight months in prison before being granted bail and this period would be deducted from his prison term. Two others, Ali Hassan Yahya Rahma, 21, and Jaafar Hameed Ibrahim Ahmad, 23, were given one-year sentences. They had been charged with joining the Islamic front and possessing anti-government literature. Mr. Ahmad had also been charged with possessing printing equipment. Because only the sentences were read out it was not immediately known on which charges the three were finally convicted.

Large weapons cache found in Kuwait sheep pen

KUWAIT (AP) — Police said Wednesday they seized a large amount of weapons left behind by Iraqi troops when they left Kuwait. It was the second such cache found in a week. Major Saleh Al Mishan, an Interior Ministry spokesman, said the weapons were discovered Tuesday in a sheep pen in Sulaiya, a rural area southwest of Kuwait City. He would not provide details about the quantity of the arms and ammunition, but he said it was "huge." Al Qabas daily quoted security sources as saying the cache included about 1,100 rocket propelled grenades, 400 boxes of ammunition and 316 boxes of hand grenades. Maj. Mishan said no arrests have been made. A similar cache was uncovered in the same area last week. A number of Kuwaiti fundamentalist Muslims claimed they stashed the weapons to send them to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Humud Al Sabah told Al Qabas security forces were working to collect weapons left behind by Iraqis after their hasty retreat from the emirate Feb. 26, 1991. Most Kuwaitis, who still fear a second Iraqi invasion, refused to hand in the weapons they got hold of during the seven month occupation or in the days following liberation.

Egyptian author Yehia Haqqi dies

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian novelist Yehia Haqqi, 87, died Wednesday of old age at a Cairo hospital, the government's Middle East News Agency said. Mr. Haqqi was well known among Arab writers for his novels and short stories. Some of his most famous novels are "The Lantern of Um Hashim," "Blood and Mud," "Good Morning," and "The Postman" for which he received a government prize in 1967. Mr. Haqqi was born in Cairo in 1905. He got a law degree from Cairo University in 1925 and then joined the diplomatic corps. He served as a diplomat in Saudi Arabia, Italy, France, Turkey and Libya. His literary career began in the 1930s when he was appointed head of the Culture Ministry's arts department. He later became chief editor of "The Magazine," a literary publication. Since the early 1970s, he devoted all his time to writing. Mr. Haqqi is survived by a wife and a daughter.

Nathan plans camp for Somalis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli peace activists Abie Nathan said Tuesday he was about to set up a tent city for 20,000 destitute Somali refugees in Kenya. "Everybody is trying to send food. I think there is a lot of food but no shelters and facilities," he said. Mr. Nathan said he had collected half a million dollars from Jews in the United States, Britain and Israel and could start work within two weeks. "We are trying to provide sanitation facilities, kitchens and mattresses rather than sleeping on the floor." He said the plan was to accommodate from 20,000 to 25,000 refugees at Habaswein and hand over administration of the area to the United Nations. Mr. Nathan, involved in relief work for more than 25 years, said he expected to receive money from the U.S. government for the project, which is estimated to cost up to \$1.2 million.

Police detain 34 people in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — Police said Tuesday they detained 34 people suspected of attacks that included the killings of six policemen and the wounding of eight. The incidents, spanning an eight-month period, also included robberies, taxi hijackings, the raking of police vehicles with automatic weapons fire and bombings of Turkish companies, police said. Security teams raided cells of the Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) organisation in the past 10 days and detained suspected high-level members of the underground group, police said in a statement. They also seized 15 different types of weapons, ammunition, bombs, hand grenades, several fake IDs and plans to ambush prominent businessmen, who were not unidentified, the statement said. The Marxist Dev Sol, one of the most feared networks in Turkey, killed a U.S. military employee and a U.S. civilian and wounded an American soldier during the Gulf war. The organisation, which seeks the overthrow of the government and the creation of a Marxist state, has also claimed responsibility for the assassination of several generals and government officials.

Prison inmate burns himself to death

NICOSIA (AP) — A convict who set himself on fire at Nicosia central prison died in the hospital Tuesday. Sotiris Omisoulis, 30, serving 15 years for manslaughter, poured kerosene on himself and set the fire Monday in a locked room of the prison library where he used to work, the Cyprus News Agency said. The agency said Mr. Omisoulis was convicted in 1989 of killing his 19-year-old girlfriend after an argument. Officials said he had received psychiatric treatment but previously had shown no suicidal tendencies.

Two Iranians jailed in Japan on dope charges

TOKYO (AP) — A district court sentenced two Iran Air security officers to prison Tuesday for attempting to smuggle into Japan opium and marijuana valued at 30.7 million yen (\$312,000) in street sales. The Chiba district court sentenced Ali Mohammad, 32, to eight years in prison and a fine of 800,000 yen (\$6,500), and Majada Mohammadi Talat, 30, to 2½ years and a fine of 200,000 yen (\$1,600). The maximum penalty for smuggling opium into Japan is 10 years in prison and that for smuggling marijuana seven years. Customs officials said they discovered 3.4 kilograms of opium and 260 grammes of marijuana hidden in a bag carried by Mr. Mohammadi, who arrived at Tokyo's international airport on Nov. 7, 1991, as a security officer on an Iran Air flight. The officials then checked the bags of all other crew members and passengers on the plane and reported finding 230 grammes of marijuana carried by Mr. Talat. Makiko Suzuki, chief lawyer for the two, said both denied the charges at their trial. She quoted Mr. Mohammadi as saying he did not know what was in the bag. Ms. Suzuki said she would meet with the two Iranians this week to discuss whether to appeal to a higher court.

Arms-laden ship heads for Iran

ERDEK, Turkey (AP) — A ship impounded last year in Istanbul with a cargo of arms bound for Iran left Turkey Tuesday after permission was granted by an appeals court, the Anatolia news agency reported. The 2,700-tonne Cape Maleas was seized Oct. 22, 1991 as it sailed in from the Black Sea and was passing through the Bosphorus Strait. Turkish authorities said at the time that the Cyprus-registered vessel contained a cargo of undeclared arms, which reportedly included anti-aircraft missiles loaded at a Bulgarian port. Officials said they suspected the arms were destined for Turkish Kurdish separatist rebels. Iran at the time protested that it owned the cargo and asked for its immediate release. The incident strained relations between the two neighbours. Last month, an appeals court endorsed a state security court's ruling that the ship should be released for lack of evidence that the arms would be unloaded in Turkish waters.

Kuwait bans goods which defame Islam

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Tuesday banned the import and display of goods which defamed the Islamic faith, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. A decree issued by Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Al Hajeri banned the import, promotion, or production of any goods bearing religious inscriptions "if their use were disdainful, mocking or made light of Islam." It said legal steps would be taken against anyone violating the decree.

Somali

(Continued from page 1)

Warsi, sensing that a ceasefire was being negotiated, which by the United Nations Somalia's two-year-old civil war, was said to be the first step towards peace.

Operation Restore I called, will draw troops from more than 20,000 troops by the United Nations and the United States.

There were also reports of lawlessness in town of Baidoa where, many innocent people were killed in clan fighting.

It had a symbolic significance for the World Food Programme, the airport for more than 10 years because of several strikes and baggage with training wages.

A spokeswoman for the agency said that the evacuation of the airport was a success.

The article gives the Press and Public the right to publish what they want in the country.

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PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Imogene
18:00	News in French
18:30	Les Images du L'histoire
19:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Uncle Buck
21:30	Civil Wars
22:30	Movie of the week: "Ghost Busters"
PRAYER TIMES	
6:45	Fajr
11:20	(Sunrise) Duhr
14:13	Asr
16:36	Maghreb
17:59	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweitha Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
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Terrasants Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625472	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624 and 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
A rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman Min./max. temp. 05 / 17	
Aqaba 10 / 22	
Dorcas 04 / 18	
Jordan Valley 09 / 22	
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 10, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
EMERGENCIES	
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Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199

Some agriculture in dry areas to be discussed in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Jordan and six other Middle Eastern countries will meet in Amman today for a three-day agricultural workshop.

The workshop is being organized by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), which is organising a series of workshops in dry areas which receive less than 350 milliliters of rain.

ICARDA, which is organising a series of workshops in dry areas which receive less than 350 milliliters of rain, said 80 researchers from the seven countries involved in the workshop will be participating in the workshop and will discuss the results of 25 studies in dry areas.

ICARDA said the workshop is part of the regional Mashreq project which is financed by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

The five-year project aims at increasing the productivity of barley, pasture and livestock in Syria, Jordan and Iraq by providing technology to farmers and sheep owners.

ICARDA said that the project focuses on human resources development by training technical staff and organising study tours and workshops to enhance information exchange.

The following countries are participating in the meeting: Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon and Morocco.

Environment campaign to open in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — A week long programme on saving the environment will be held in the port city of Aqaba from Sunday Dec. 13.

The programme is being organised by the Amman of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) and the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environment Pollution (JSCPEP).

The programme entails the holding of a special exhibition to spread awareness of the local public on means of protecting the environment.

Held at the Princess Community Centre in the exhibition will include drawings and posters drawn by children, film and slide shows on desertification, and a discussion will be among the main features of the programme, the announcement noted.

The week also includes a seminar on traffic and the environment aimed at orienting the public on the negative effects of heavy traffic on the environment and means of reducing the volume of pollutants through continued maintenance of vehicles and the employment of modern technology in environment-related affairs.

The role of the public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organisations in Jordan in reducing pollution will also be discussed.

At the end of the week's events, participants and local citizens will carry out a largescale tree planting programme on a plot of land to be made into a public park.

U.N. researchers leave for Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — A U.N. fact finding mission ended a two day visit to Jordan Wednesday and left for Syria to continue their research on the situation of Palestinian refugees and services accorded to them by Arab governments and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

On the second and last day of their stay in Amman, the U.N. team was presented the views of the Jordanian government as voiced by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber who spoke at length about the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process.

The foreign minister said Israel should be committed to international legality and should implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

He repeated Jordan's demand of an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied since 1967 including Jerusalem and granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights. He stressed that Jordan can by no means serve as a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

The fact finding mission which is accompanied by 18 European journalists earlier met with Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar for a discussion on the water issues of the Middle East region. Referring to the water problems, he said that the two sides in the conflict have outstanding disputes over river waters and ways of benefiting from the rain water harvest and the construction of dams. Team members quoted the minister as discussing the question of bringing in water by pipes from Turkey noting that the main problem is the high cost of such a project.

The minister told the U.N. team that nearly 85 per cent of rain water falling on Jordan was being lost through evaporation.

"It will take a long time for peace to be established in the region because the Arab-Israeli problem is deep rooted," said Dr. Abu Jaber at a meeting with the team in his office Wednesday.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Chile sign cultural and scientific agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Chile have signed an executive programme of cultural and scientific cooperation for the next three years. The programme provides for cooperation in education, sports, information, health, tourism and antiquities. Signing the programme for the Jordanian government was the Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan and the Chilean ambassador to Jordan Nelson Haddad.

Teenager undergoes successful cornea surgery

IRBID (Petra) — A 16 years old girl complaining of poor eye sight underwent a successful cornea surgery at the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. According to the ophthalmologist who conducted the surgery Dr. Ahmad Al Rashdan, the donor was a 12 years old Mowafaq Hamdan from Mafraq who passed away shortly before the surgery was conducted. Dr. Rashdan said that the girl has now restored full eye sight.

Rally voices support for intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — A public rally held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Tuesday night voiced support for the Palestinian intifada and urged Arab countries to extend support for the oppressed people of Palestine.

Among the speakers at the rally, which marked the sixth year of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, were two Lower House members Mohammad Tarawneh and Faris Nabulsi who outlined the various developments in the Palestine question.

The two deputies who lauded the Palestinian people's continued struggle for freedom, criticised the Israelis' so called 'Zionism methods' of Judaizing Palestine, their practice of evicting the Arab population, uprooting the Arab-owned trees and the continuing violence in the territories.

The two deputies said that the Palestinian people had been victims of conspiracies hatched during the British mandate. They called for increased moral and material support for the intifada which, they said, was the only means of confronting the Zionist challenge.

According to Abbas Zaki, Secretary General of the Higher Committee for the Intifada, 1,603 Palestinians have been killed and 124,000 wounded in clashes with the Israeli troops since the start of the intifada in 1987. Mr. Zaki said that Israeli jails have 112,000 detainees and their forces have demolished 2,500 homes and uprooted 150,000 Arab-owned fruit trees since 1987.

Mr. Zaki, who praised the Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and close cooperation, warned against the consequences of hostile measures being practiced by a number of Arab countries against the Palestinians. He pointed to the impeding market of Palestinian products.

Tarawneh appointed ambassador to U.S.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fayez Tarawneh, a former minister and currently a senior member of Jordan's delegation to peace talks with Israel, has been appointed ambassador to the United States, informed sources said Wednesday.

Dr. Tarawneh, who is now in Washington as part of the Kingdom's negotiating team to the bilateral peace talks with Israel, is expected to assume office in early January after returning home to complete the formal procedures related to his appointment. These include the issuance of a royal decree endorsing his appointment and a swearing-in in the presence of His Majesty King Hussein.

He replaces Hussein Hamami, who has been appointed secretary-general of the Foreign

Ministry after serving four years as the kingdom's ambassador in Washington.

The Foreign Ministry decision to appoint Dr. Tarawneh to the key post in Washington was informally conveyed to the council of ministers last Saturday.

Dr. Tarawneh, 43, head of Jordan's team to the steering committee of the multilateral negotiations of the Middle East peace process, served as minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of supply in the cabinet of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in 1988 and 1989.

He joined the private sector after leaving the government with the resignation of the Rifai cabinet in April 1989 before being brought back to public life as a member of the peace negotiating team last year.

Hailing from one of the prominent families from Karak in the south of Jordan, Dr. Tarawneh

graduated from the University of Jordan in 1971 and then secured masters and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Southern California.

He served as assistant chief of royal protocol between 1971 and 1980 before being moved to the Prime Ministry as economic adviser until 1988. He was appointed minister of state for prime ministry affairs in January 1988 and in December that year as minister of supply — both in the Rifai cabinet.

After leaving the government in 1988, Dr. Tarawneh served as chairman of the board of the Arab Contractors Company Limited and member of the board of directors of the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company (ICA).

Dr. Tarawneh is married to Ruweida. The couple has three children — Alia 14, Zeid, 12 and Dana 8.

Friends of Archeology call for further protection to Jordan's cultural heritage

Stephanie Genkin

to the Jordan Times

UN — The protection and development of Jordan's cultural heritage requires further legislation to ensure the preservation of the country's historical and archaeological sites, was the message of Monday in a lecture by Stephanie Genkin.

Dr. Genkin, who is a positive attitude to the cultural heritage protection views heritage not as a relic to protect as it is a source, that can even generate income under proper management," said Dr. Gaetano.

Antiquities Law of 1988 and an archaeological register of immovable antiquities, in sites are marked and files are drawn. Among important safeguards, it all sites from private use authorized excavation, yet it is agreed that further laws must be adopted to guarantee the survival of antiquities in Jordan.

Included in the draft of the Jordan Environmental Act, submitted in October to the Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment, archaeological and cultural resources must be treated within the context of the environment. According to Dr. Palumbo, the cultural resource management consultant at the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman, lands in the Kingdom should be surveyed and classified. Both reserves and parks should be defined by the law as areas of land which include archaeological, historical and cultural resources.

"Even if this is the only direct reference to cultural resources in the environment act, it is important that the legislator has recognised the value of cultural heritage, to be recorded and preserved," explained Dr. Palumbo.

The Royal Scientific Society is also preparing a draft for another law, targeted specifically to protect the architectural heritage of

Jordan.

"The important concept introduced by the draft law is that traditional buildings and historic sites are part of the urban context. This means that no modern construction can be built in the vicinity of a traditional building without proper permits," Dr. Palumbo said.

The current and proposed laws and procedures in Jordan are amongst the most advanced in heritage protection legislation in the world, according to Dr. Palumbo. However, his lecture highlighted the need for improvements in the area of enforcement, modification and integration.

In his recommendations, Dr. Palumbo urged the government to properly enforce the article of the present law which authorises the destruction of buildings erected without proper building permits. In addition, he also suggested enlarging the required buffer zone around historical and cultural sites.

"Let's just think of what happened to the Nymphium in

downtown Amman, suffocated by multi-stories building besides it," he said. "The expansion of the buffer zone will also modify the existing law to give it a less monument-oriented character, with a proper stress on the environmental value of archaeological and historical sites," he added.

Dr. Palumbo also suggested integrating antiquities and architectural regulations with environmental and town planning. New innovative legislative approaches alone are not enough, he said. The success of Jordan's efforts to protect its historic and archaeological sites will depend on raising public awareness of the need to preserve the country's rich cultural heritage, he explained.

"Jordan, like other countries, has the opportunity to make this change of attitude toward the approaches to cultural heritage protection," Dr. Palumbo said. "This change has always been the consequence of the integration of environment and cultural resource protection measures."

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed dates and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by Mona Samdi at Al Balka Art Gallery in Fuhes.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amir at the Al Balka Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from 22 Faysal, Kamel Al Mughanni and Laila Shawa at the Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

Exhibition by artist Ghassan Abu Lahan at Phoenix Art Bery.

Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Bery of Fine Arts.

Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Nehaya Khalaf at Baladna 1 Gallery.

BAZAAR

German speaking ladies bazaar at the Marriott Hotel, Friday 11th December, open from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m.

LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic entitled "Sultan Abdul Hameed the 2nd, two facts in his biography," by Dr. Kamal Aldeen Ogali, at the Hameed Shoman Foundation.



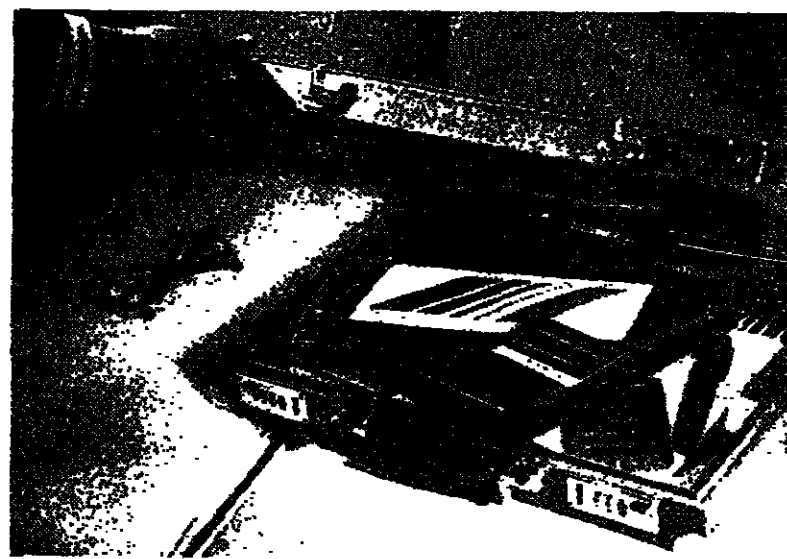
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY COMPANY LTD
AMMAN - JORDAN
ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXTENDING TENDERS
4 & 5/92

The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. announces extension of the date of submitting the offers by the qualified contractors for the following items:

No.	Project	Closing Date
1	Zarga Storage Tanks	Mon. 21/12/92
2	Aqaba Storage Tanks	Tuesday 18/2/93

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Where will all this lead?

AS SERBIAN forces get closer than ever to completely strangulating Sarajevo, the last major stronghold of the Bosnians, the military objectives of Serbia in Bosnia appear within easy reach. In retrospect, three principal factors contributed to Serbian victories: First is the U.N.-enforced end to the war in Croatia that led to freeing the bulk of Serbian forces for their war of aggression against Bosnia. Second, the Mujahedeen forces, who volunteered to assist Bosnia's war efforts, diverted their guns against Croatian forces and in the process became entangled with them instead of with the main danger emanating from the Serbian forces. This diversion had decisively weakened the central Bosnian front and led to its inevitable collapse in the face of the advancing Serbian forces. The third factor was the intervention on behalf of the Serbian forces by no less than 3,000 Russian mercenaries, including combat pilots, air force, ground and maintenance personnel.

Over and above these factors was continuous arms shipments to Serbia from Russia, China and Romania. What added fuel to the conflict of course was the rhetoric support to Bosnian Muslims from the Arab and Islamic Worlds that raised those peoples' hope that their "brothers" were coming to their rescue.

Yet the world that apparently drew comfort from the Serbian successes and rejoiced in their military victories over Bosnian Muslims may still have to reckon with the continuation of the tragedy when the victorious Serbian forces begin to head south for another military and political adventure, the Albanian-inhabited Kosovo region. This will follow on the heels of the complete military success of Serbia in Bosnia, buttressed by a projected U.N.-enforced de facto partition line running through dismembered Bosnia thus freeing the Serbian army to target yet another objective in former Yugoslavia in their quest to create "Greater Serbia."

When war reaches Kosovo as expected, Albania can be anticipated to join the fray by rushing to defend its people in Kosovo. Turkey could then invoke its Turkish-Albanian military alliance and intervene as well. The Republic of Macedonia, with its 30 per cent Albanian minority, could also be sucked into the military confrontation at which point Bulgaria and Greece can also be expected to enter the regional war. The net result could be a repetition of past Balkan wars with disastrous consequences for the world.

This major conflagration in the making can still be aborted if only Serbian advances can be effectively halted at this stage and before the events in the Balkan region become uncontrollable. It goes without saying that only an effective intervention by the Muslim countries can put an end to this fast unfolding scenario. The Islamic World, comprising no less than fifty states, does not need a green light from the United Nations to carry out its solemn duties towards their fellow Muslims in Bosnia. There is no sign yet of this ever happening but the turn of events in the Balkan region could still force the hand of the Islamic countries into action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN THEIR replies to the speech from the throne, both the senators and the members of the Lower House of Parliament were careful to underline the values and the principles on which the Hashemite Kingdom has been founded and sustained, said Al Rai daily Wednesday. It said that these principles and values have helped the Kingdom overcome various challenges over the years and enabled the Jordanians to embark with confidence on democracy and establish democratic institutions. All these years said the paper, the King was careful to ensure that his people were able to take their own decisions and implement carefully-studied plans benefiting the whole Jordanian community. Indeed, Jordanians have reason to feel proud of their achievements as they can easily see the difference between the democracy-oriented Jordanian society and the systems in the neighbouring Arab countries where people aspire at democratic rule, the paper said. Jordanians have feelings of reassurance and security and are more determined to pursue efforts for construction and development under the atmosphere of democracy, it said. Jordanians feel that the way of life they are enjoying is out of reach for other Arab communities who lack the feeling of security and whose aspirations conflict with those of their rulers, the paper added. It said that the King's wise leadership and the continued and relentless efforts of his people can together ensure further progress.

AL DUSTOUR daily Monday concentrated on the eighth Arab-Israeli round of peace negotiations in Washington, noting that the new round is being held amid continued Israeli intransigence. It seems that nothing can be achieved in the new round of talks that and the failed negotiations of the past year will repeat itself in the coming year, said the daily. It is worth noting that the new round is being held in the transitional period, between the outgoing Bush administration and the incoming Clinton administration, something, the paper said, that is bound to weaken all possibilities of any progress. It is clear, said the paper, that the Rabin government is trying to exploit this transitional period and playing for more time, and is trying to keep matters in balance, showing no intention to implement U.N. resolutions in order to reach a comprehensive settlement with the Arab parties, said the daily.

Shbeilat lashes at 'anti-democratic' forces, ponders on political future

By Sana Atiyeh



Laith Shbeilat

AMMAN — Since he was freed on Nov. 25 after 76 days in detention, Laith Shbeilat has spent most of his time at home in the suburb of Marj Al Hamam with his wife and children contemplating whether to return to political life as a deputy of the Lower House of Parliament or take a sabbatical for a year before he decides what to do in the future.

Mr. Shbeilat sits comfortably in his well-designed, yet modest home, and makes sure he takes all his phone calls. He pays lots of attention to his young-looking and energetic wife, Rima, and his two youngest blondish-haired boys, as if making up for the time lost during his solitary days at Swaga prison.

The two-hour interview with the Jordan Times was interrupted several times by telephone calls from citizens requesting Mr. Shbeilat's help. "Problems that should not exist in a time of democracy," he says.

The independent Islamist deputy was cleared from a 20-year prison sentence after His Majesty King Hussein issued a general amnesty on Nov. 12, two days after the three-man military tribunal of the State Security Court found him, along with deputy Yacoub Qarash and two shopkeepers, guilty of belonging to an illegal militant group, Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami. During the controversial trial, Mr. Shbeilat insisted on his innocence, as he still does, to the seven charges made against him by the military prosecutor. He refused to cooperate with the court and did not give any statements neither to the prosecution nor to the court. The only statement he made to the court was, however, that the "charges are all fabricated against me for political reasons."

Mr. Shbeilat, his family and supporters maintained during the trial that his political activity as a deputy was the reason behind the 6-week trial. They said that his role as "defender of human rights, critic of security excesses and his fight against corruption involving powerful former government officials" were the reasons behind the case.

However, the military prosecutor insisted that the case was purely a legal matter, dealing with "an illegal group, possession of arms and explosives intended for use inside Jordan, with the aim of toppling the regime and replacing it with a Caliphate-style Islamic state." Mr. Shbeilat was also charged with undermining Jordanian-Iraqi relations and slandering the King and members of parliament. He was found not guilty on those charges.

The proceedings of the trial were criticised by Mr. Shbeilat's defence team, headed by Ibrahim Bakr, parliament members and political and union activists. The defence team walked out of the case after a "secret session" where a witness — identified as Syrian "Yassin Ramadan Yassin" by the court, and as Iraqi "Ali Shakerji" by Mr. Shbeilat — testified that he had delivered 300,000 German marks from the Iranian leadership to the deputy back in April. The testimony, however, was rejected by the court when the verdict was handed out on Nov. 10.

The Royal amnesty was granted before the court verdict was endorsed by the prime minister — according to the State Security Court law — thus clearing deputies Shbeilat and Qarash of all the charges and enabling them to return to their seats in parliament.

Dressed in a dark blue suit and (unusually) a tie, Mr. Shbeilat attended King Hussein's Speech from the Throne opening the last ordinary parliamentary session on Dec. 1 but he walked out before the house elected the

King Hussein received Mr. Shbeilat in a private meeting the day after the deputy returned home from Tafila, where he spent a week among his townfolk and relatives.

Mr. Shbeilat, impressed with "the grandeur and courtesy of His Majesty," said they talked about Jordan and the democratic process, but not about the trial.

Dismissing speculations that a deal might have been struck between the monarch and the deputy to gain his freedom, Mr. Shbeilat said "it is insulting to His Majesty because he does not need to strike deals; and it is insulting to me because that is not how I conduct business."

Mr. Shbeilat, who is serving his second term as a deputy for Amman's third district, said he was grateful for the King's amnesty, and that he was not the only one who benefited from the pardon.

"The amnesty also includes all corruption cases committed before Nov. 11, which means these files are now closed," Mr. Shbeilat said. He added that those who took him to court have also "been given amnesty from being prosecuted by us for possible institutional perjury."

He was referring to a testimony made in Germany by an Iraqi man, Ali Shakerji, who claimed that he was "forced" to testify against Shbeilat in the secret session under the assumed name of Yassin Ramadan Yassin.

"If I was tried for trying to shake the regime (as charged), then what about those who really shook the regime and made us a mockery in Europe and around the world?" Mr. Shbeilat asked without elaboration. He said he and his activities as a deputy are the proof of Jordan's democracy and that those who wanted to silence him were the proof that anti-democratic forces are still resisting change.

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Dressed in a dark blue suit and (unusually) a tie, Mr. Shbeilat attended King Hussein's Speech from the Throne opening the last ordinary parliamentary session on Dec. 1 but he walked out before the house elected the

speaker. On Tuesday he also accompanied parliamentarians to the Royal Court when both the Lower and Upper Houses delivered their replies to the King's speech.

Sipping tea after lunching on stuffed vine leaves prepared by his wife and daughter, Mr. Shbeilat criticised his colleagues in Parliament for not coming to his rescue in a case he insisted was a "farce."

Describing his trial and imprisonment as "an insult to Parliament," he explained what he would have done had he been the speaker of the house while another deputy went through the experience. ("It's very insulting for the speaker and deputies not to be given information about my case except 21 days later, and from our lawyers; it's very insulting that none of them could visit their colleague in prison except on day 70, one day before the verdict," he commented).

"I would have called the prime minister, giving him three days of silence for the benefit of the secrecy of the investigation, and asked that I see him with the prosecutor and the files, to convince me that there is a case against my colleague," Mr. Shbeilat said.

"If I am convinced there is a case, I would remove any barriers that will forbid a fair trial. But if I am not convinced, I would announce my findings at a press conference two hours after my meeting with the prime minister."

The deputy went on to criticise the house speaker, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, saying he would not have "committed the crime against justice by reiterating every now and then that 'my colleague is being subject to a fair trial,' knowing fully well that detained witnesses were being brought to testify."

Mr. Shbeilat said he was referring to five prosecution witnesses who were detained for more than a month at the General Intelligence Department in another case.

Mr. Shbeilat's recollection of what had happened outside his prison cell was more bitter than his actual imprisonment. That, he said, motivates him to stay away from parliament. (In fact, he spoke highly of his treatment in detention, and said he enjoyed the food until he started his 20-day hunger strike following his lawyers' withdrawal). He doubted that his colleagues would now open the Al Nafar files, which makes him "uncomfortable as they (the deputies) continue to sing the tunes of democracy."

Describing his colleagues as "turning from being positive assets towards achieving democratic stability into negative assets when they stopped carrying the aspirations of the people to the decision-makers," Mr. Shbeilat warned against unrest if people's aspirations lost their representation, preventing a smooth and harmonious democratic life.

When this reporter reminded him of a comment he made to the Jordan Times during the November 1989 elections that the new parliament was "like a factory out of order for twenty years, and the

first batch (of legislators) was not fit for consumption," Mr. Shbeilat smiled and said: "The next batch (due to be elected in 1993) was also not fit because it will not be any better due to the silly limitations on political parties."

For Mr. Shbeilat, the only democratic force in Jordan is King Hussein, "who remains the unifying force in the Kingdom," and among the grassroots; while the people's representatives have "accepted to play under the low ceiling set by the government without trying to push the ceiling any higher."

The deputy, who opposed many of the articles of the Political Parties Law, said that the results of the law were beginning to appear with the banning last week of the Communist and Baathist parties although, he believes, they would not muster much popular support.

The deputy was also an outspoken opponent of the national charter, which was drafted by a Royal commission representing all political factions in the country and which set the guidelines for political activity in the Kingdom. Mr. Shbeilat criticised the lack of progress in the democratic process, "where the musicians are not playing properly in one orchestra."

"I don't accept to see myself still trying to solve the same kind of problems I worked on in 1984 in 1992."

Had there been progress (in democracy), I would be directing my work to much higher issues.

Mr. Shbeilat says he is in a dilemma. While he finds it hard to abandon his political activity, he insisted that he could not continue to work towards democracy on his own, as he put it. Where does Islam fit in his plans?

"Islam is the future," he says. Mr. Shbeilat, who was accused by the court of trying to set up an Islamic state after toppling the regime, insisted that Islam was an "important philosophy" for him. "Implementing Islam in the socio-economic sense that would lead to an Islamic state is very far down the line," he concedes.

He would not accept a seat in the executive branch, "because it would be hypocritical of me, and it would not change the personalities of the people in politics." Although he said he would be "honoured" to work closely with the King, he insisted he would not accept an official post.

Mr. Shbeilat's hopes for a stable and democratic Jordan lie in institutionalising democracy where "people would feel 90 per cent secure that no sort of aggression is committed against them, like tapping their phones and violating their basic rights. The other 10 per cent should be left for the security forces to handle."

"The stability achieved by the tremendous personality and leadership of His Majesty will risk being lost in the future if it is not institutionalised," Mr. Shbeilat concluded.

The writer, a freelance journalist, covered the Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami case for the Jordan Times.

Changed approaches to peace talks

By Susan Hattis Rolef

The intifada has convinced our leaders that the road to peace between Israel and the Palestinians lies through the Palestinians themselves.

Without the intifada, it is far from certain that Israel would today be holding bilateral talks with a Palestinian delegation (which, for the sake of appearances, includes nine Palestinians and two token Jordanians) to negotiate an autonomy plan.

The change was especially evident among Labour's leaders. On the eve of the intifada, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, then foreign and defence ministers respectively, were prisoners of the so-called "Jordanian option" which linked a solution of the Palestinian problem to an agreement with Jordan.

Today, both men admit that the "Jordanian option" is as dead as the dodo. And in so far as at least part of the Likud leadership supported the "Jordan is Palestine" concept, it too had no intention of sitting down for talks with the Palestinians.

But it was the Likud which started sitting down with the Palestinians in Washington in December 1991, although this was the result of pressure from the Americans, whose own attitude towards the Palestinians was definitely affected by the intifada.

"I don't accept to see myself still trying to solve the same kind of problems I worked on in 1984 in 1992."

Had there been progress (in democracy), I would be directing my work to much higher issues. Mr. Shbeilat says he is in a dilemma. While he finds it hard to abandon his political activity, he insisted that he could not continue to work towards democracy on his own, as he put it. Where does Islam fit in his plans?

The plan was to have led to direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians. On the basis of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's "10 points," published on Sept. 19 of the same year, those talks were to have opened in Cairo. But the plan never materialised, because the national unity government broke up against the background of disagreements on its implementation.

The current peace talks resulted from the peace initiative of Secretary of State James Baker after the Gulf war, and the Palestinians entered them from a position of weakness, following their strategic error of backing the wrong side.

Unlike the 1989 Israeli initiative, which to all intents and

purposes was based on Israeli-Palestinian track initiative from the followed the two-track involving simultaneous talks between Israel and the Arab states on the one hand, and the Arab states on the other.

The intifada is now the peace talks on the one hand, and the Arab states on the other. The talks opening in 1991 strengthened the of Palestinians in the return to a semblance of life: resuming sports events, ensuring that life and school studies were as little as possible. It also saw their refusal to celebrate wedding family events.

There is also a tie between the intifada peace talks. Mr. Arafat declared that the intifada, despite the Palestinians' political goal: the end of an independent state in the West Bank Strip, with East Jerusalem as capital.

Seen in this way, the the Palestinians' even talks with Israel. In of if Israel wants to be intifada, it must establish of a state.

This perception of the success of the intifada through the governance time and again that if of peace based on a compromise on all the sides the autonomy is being discussed as a arrangement for a confidence-building project which no further possible.

There are intifada victories inspired by the Palestinian society in the talks, and over Arafat and his supporters territories have a

For these elements da exists to obstruct talks. Murderous Israelis by religious rejectionists have weakened Israel's resolve an agreement with the Palestinians, and to force harshly, weakening the resolve to reach with Israel — The Post.

In final gesture Bush may reward Vietnam for help

By Jim Wolf
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Powerful forces are driving the United States towards reconciliation with Vietnam — forces President George Bush may seize upon before leaving office.

As an outgoing president, Mr. Bush is considered more likely to make a politically significant gesture to Hanoi than President-elect Bill Clinton, who repeatedly has said he would be in no rush to mend ties while questions remain about missing Americans.

Such a gesture — if Mr. Bush decides to make one — would reward Hanoi's expanded help in pinning down the fate of the 2,264 Americans still listed as missing from the war.

Vietnam-watchers in Washington increasingly think Mr. Bush may act shortly before Christmas, after the Senate committee on prisoners-of-war (PoW) and those missing in action (MIA) from the war issues its final report, expected on Dec. 21.

Retired army General John Vessey, Mr. Bush's special envoy on POW/MIA affairs, has said the time was ripe to reciprocate for recently granted access to war-time archives.

"We've laid out a roadmap which indicates there will be corresponding movement on each side," Gen. Vessey told the POW/MIA committee's final public hearing. "I think now is the time for an appropriate step."

But Mr. Vessey, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who first served as special president Ronald Reagan's then-president on the issue, said in an interview he did not know whether Mr. Bush planned further economic or diplomatic re-

wards. The Bush administration under heavy pressure to end U.S. companies to re- and economic embargo posed against Hanoi in embargo was extended Vietnam after communist defeated the U.S. in Vietnam in Saigon in 1975.

Washington also has been from its allies, notably France, which have been out to compete with Vietnam since 1989 when Hanoi withdrew its last troops from Cambodia.

Virginia Foote, director U.S.-Vietnam Trade, said in an interview, Hanoi had a "terrific reputation" for its economic growth, but she was out to compete with Vietnam from Taiwan, South Japan and elsewhere.

Strategic considerations also propelling the U.S. and Vietnam towards each other. Both perceive a threat to their existing balance of power in southeast Asia from China's short term and Japan's long term.

Under the current posture for normalising relations with Vietnam, Mr. Bush's office would be expected to do business with Vietnam, but that would let Hanoi's arrears at the International Monetary Fund and thus eligible for loans from the agency.

But normalisation may be laid for a year or more Bush decides, after all, a thaw before he leaves on Jan. 20, some U.S. officials believe.

Intifada at age five — the casualties still grow

By Jack Redden
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli bullets halted mass demonstrations in a few months. But five years and well over a thousand deaths after the Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule began, casualties continue to mount.

"Basically the thing disintegrated in the sense you had a strategy, but you were left with resistance," said Sari Nusseibeh, an academic jailed by Israel two years ago and now a key figure in the current peace talks.

Since the start of October, 32 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces. It could be the bloodiest year since 1989. Three Israeli soldiers shot dead Monday raised army losses this year to 11, the same number to die in all previous years combined.

"What we have going on today is resistance to the occupation," Mr. Nusseibeh said at the family home on the green line that marks the divide between occupied Arab land and pre-1967 Israel. "This will continue as long as the occupation."

The "intifada" erupted spon-

taneously in the occupied Gaza Strip on Dec. 9, 1987 — five years ago on Wednesday — following a collision with an Israeli truck in which four Palestinian workers died.

The tough tactics ordered by then-Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin suppressed the mass street demonstrations by the following summer.

More use of informers, undercover units and an Israeli public relations campaign abroad then sapped the enthusiasm that had energised a previously apathetic Arab population.

Of course, there were lasting political gains. As the Israeli newspaper Haaretz said this week: "Because of the intifada there is no chance that the Palestinian people will again resign themselves to Israeli rule."

Above all the revolt was the catalyst for the current Middle East peace talks. The violence spurred Washington to push Israel to the bargaining table and forced the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to take the once abhorrent step of accepting Israeli existence in hopes of gaining a state in Gaza and the West Bank.

But the impasse in the peace

talks, now stalled after 13 months of bargaining, is fuelling fresh frustration and bitterness.

In the decaying streets of Gaza and in muddy West Bank villages the talks — aiming only at limited self-rule with independence still a vague dream of future negotiations — have done little to remove the anger that fuels the intifada.

"I believe that soldiers are now ready to kill anybody without any remorse," Youssef Abu Sharkh, father of a 12-year-old boy shot dead by soldiers in Gaza this month, said just before the anniversary.

Mr. Rabin's election victory over the hard-right Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last June initially raised Palestinian hopes for ending the 25-year-old occupation. Now Palestinian negotiators say little has changed and Palestinians in the street complain their lives have not improved.

Gaza residents say well-publicised "confidence-building measures" such as dismantling army barriers across streets in Gaza have been followed by the quiet construction of fresh ones elsewhere.

After five years in which at least 964 Palestinians have been

killed by Israelis, 106 Israelis by Arabs and another 543 Palestinians by fellow Arabs for alleged collaboration, the intifada has become a way of life on both sides.

Israeli settlers, who see little change in the amount of Jewish building in the occupied territories under Mr. Rabin, drive cars armoured against rocks, enjoy extra army protection and suffer few injuries.

Palestinians are used to sporadic strike days, shorter hours of business and disruption to schools. When police tear gas enveloped the heart of Arab East Jerusalem last Saturday, women shoppers knew the techniques for countering its effects, each one sniffing an onion.

Prospects for an end to the violence are not good. Even if an Israeli-Palestinian accord for limited self-rule emerges, disappointment among those who dreamed the intifada would lead to independence could prolong the fighting.

Shortly before the anniversary an Israeli expert, Colonel Reuven Levy, went on state radio to say only diplomacy could end the violence. "I hope it will end in a year, but I don't think so."

Computers in control

By Jean-Claude Elias

The most fascinating way to use Personal Computers — PCs — may not be by doing your accounting, word processing or management programmes, but rather by using the PC to drive and control other machines or devices. Users have come to realise that the possibilities and the number and types of tasks that a PC can handle are virtually limitless.

By connecting the PC to an external device, via an electronic circuitry interface, it becomes possible to activate this device with greater control, accuracy, added programmability, flexibility and...more fun. The interface could be built-in the PC or it could be an optional or special item that has to be purchased separately and then installed inside the PC casing. PC owners are already familiar with the multi-purpose parallel and serial interfaces they all have in their computer.

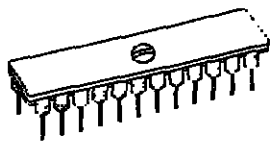
A fax or telex system, a video tape recorder, a camera still or video —, a weather station, a stereo music set, a telephone exchange, a satellite TV receiver, an engineering drawing plotter, a central heating or air conditioning system, all can be connected to and controlled by a PC. Interfaces for all above devices are commercially available and inexpensive. Even when there's a need to connect a device for which no interface exists, it is possible to design and make such an interface.

You could, for instance, programme the PC to turn on and off your central heating, not only automatically — a simple timer can do that — but also depending on the efficiency of the heating, the external and internal temperatures, the humidity, the presence and the number of people in the house, how much machinery or light bulbs are working — all heat-generation devices — and therefore optimise your fuel consumption, while still having ideal heating.

With camera, you could input images taken into the computer, visualise them on the screen, alter their shape, colours, contrast and other attributes, then integrate them in a programme or a presentation, and eventually synchronise with a musical part, for a complete multi-media — the latest trend — production.

The MIDI — Music Instrument Digital Interface — is an excellent example of the tremendous processing power of the PC. Connect a computer to a music synthesiser, via a MIDI cable, and watch the notes you play become alive, on your screen, in standard music notation. Then edit the notes, as you would edit words in a word-processor, and

chip talk



ask the computer to play them back. Or save your performance on the hard disk. Or play several instruments and mix them to obtain a professional orchestral arrangement.

Musicians have acknowledged the power of MIDI, which emerged in 1983-1984, and most recording studios in the world, Jordan included, now use MIDI in their productions. MIDI is not limited to music. Provided a fast PC is used, MIDI can also control audio-video synchronisation and theatre lighting systems.

Actually, most of today's machines are computer-driven, although the computers controlling them can take different sizes and shapes. In manufacturing, custom-built "Process Control" or "Numeric Control" computers run machine-tools. Aircraft, whether military or commercial, won't fly without a host of pre-programmed computer boards. Even modern cars are fitted with micro-processors — the core of any PC — that optimise engine combustion, breaking, and other vital functions. However such computers are in a class apart and cannot be described as Personal Computers. They are built with higher tolerance to temperatures, humidity and vibrations, are more complicated to programme and have special casings to fit the environment they will be used in. They usually have more processing power than the regular PC.

Thinking of "Computers In Control," brings up visions of robots to mind. In fact that's what it is all about: Robotics. Until the advent of fast PCs, only big manufacturers and military or civil research centres could afford real robot-machines. Now any teenage "computer freak" can acquire, for about \$300, a robotic arm. The arm is supplied with its interface and software. It can move in three dimensions and can easily be programmed. Now close your eyes and imagine all that a "robotic arm" can do for you, in your house.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BITTING, BUT CLEVER DEFINITIONS

- **ABSCONDING:** A sudden move to get rich.
- **BOSS:** The man at the office who's early when you're late and late when you are early.
- **BOOK:** A tool for shaping the brain.
- **BACHELOR:** A man who never has to explain how he got the lipstick on his handkerchief.

AMAZING FACTS

- A baby snake gets out of its egg by means of a temporary egg tooth, as a chick does.
- It takes three pounds of fresh figs to make one pound of dried ones.
- Fish with forked tails are the fastest swimmers.
- The sun, source of life on earth, has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

'Pronouns'

- I am a teacher. *Ana Mu'allim.*
- You are a minister. *Anta wazir.*
- He is a king. *Hawa malik.*
- She is a queen. *Heya malikah.*
- We are women. *Nahnu niswa.*
- You are happy mothers/fathers. *Antum ommahat sa'idat./Antum abaa su'adaa.*
- They are relatives. *Hom akarib.*

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is meant by voluntary euthanasia?
2. What is the curana?
3. Who wrote The Golden Bough and what is the book about, in general?
4. Arrange the following towns in order from north to south: Edinburgh, Copenhagen, Vladivostok.
5. What is the difference between a crocodile and an alligator?

LAUGH TIME

A man wanted to buy a radio for himself and so he went to a radio shop and asked: "Can you give me a good radio?"

"Why not, sir?" replied the shopkeeper.
"Do you want Murphy, Philips or Bush or....?"
"Don't try to cheat me," snapped the man. "I want an All-India radio."

"Why did the foreman fire you?"
"Well, the foreman is the man who stands around and watches others work."

See Solutions on page D

PUZZLES

If I multiplied by I equals ME and ME multiplied by ME equals SHE, how much is SHE worth?

Humble and the Munchies

By E. Yaghi

By the lapping waves of the Plutonian shore there rises a steep range of gray hills which guard and protect the village of the Munchies. Being blue, Munchies had never seen anyone else who was of any different colour until one cloudy afternoon, a non-Munchie from Kara wandered into their territory. His name was Humble and he was green. As soon as he approached some blues, he was met with discrimination and heard on the very first day of his sojourn in Munchie land, "oh what a disgusting colour! Green? I've always hated anything green!"

Humble was quite lost and almost thought of leaving Munchie country as soon as he arrived, but he had amnesia and couldn't remember how he got there in the first place or from where he had come. So he confusedly sat down on the dirt by the side of the main road and thought and thought. Who was he? Where was he from? After a while, an old Munchie came along and saw poor Humble with his head sunk in his hands and about ready to cry.

"Hello there young man. You look as if you have no friend in the world. What's wrong?"

Humble looked up at the kind expression on the old man's face and replied, "I'm lost. Apparently I don't belong here for everyone else is blue and I'm green. I'm sorry for that, but I can't change my colour. I've also lost my memory and all I know for sure is that my name is Humble. What's yours sir?"

"People call me Justice. You know something? I need a young man like yourself to help me in my grocery. The pay isn't much, but you can live and work with me. I don't care what colour you are, for I'm colour blind and each person looks the same to me anyway," he boasted with a laugh.

So it was that Humble found an excellent friend in the old man Justice. He also had food enough to eat, some of his own earnings and a cozy place to sleep at night. Often, Justice would send the young Humble on errands to purchase goods for his grocery. The green youth would hitch the tattered brown donkey onto the bright yellow cart and off he would go on his missions of business. But every time he went out, he was abused and people either laughed at his being green or mocked him for his being different so that by the time he returned to the grocery, he was nearly in tears. At first he tried to hide his agony, but then one day while he was stocking shelves with wheat and barley and thought Justice couldn't see him, he let escape a flood tears that had just been waiting for such an opportunity.

"Humble," the old man called, "I think I smell the salt of the sea. Can you smell it too? It's very seldom that a whiff of those deep waters comes our way, but every so often we are refreshed by such an occasion."

Embarrassed, Humble tried to wipe his face on his shirt sleeve before Justice cornered him so he quickly answered in a wrinkled voice: "No, I don't smell anything!" And went to bury his head among a pile of dry onions.

He was too late, the keen eyes of the old Munchie had caught him. He walked over to Humble, with one finger lifted up his smeared face and said, shaking his head: "Tch, tch! What's this? A fine young lad with crying on his face! Is there something I can help you with? Come on, don't be afraid to speak, after all I think you need a shoulder to lean on."

The green one took out a silk handkerchief, blew his nose with a snort and said, "I'm sorry for crying, but you see, everyone makes fun of me because I'm green. I can't help my colour and it's the only thing that makes me different from them! They either taunt me or call me names or even throw rocks at me and here, today I got hit on the head with a stone which cut me and when I started bleeding the Munchies laughed even harder and said: "Oh, even better, a green man with red spots!"

The old man shook his head in disgust and exclaimed:

"I'm very sorry to hear that my people are so big. Please have patience with them and maybe they will fully of their vanity!"

Maybe Humble didn't know who he was, but he had found a treasure in the friendship of the old man something more precious than gold and rarer than a priceless jewel. Soon, however, the Munchies even bothering Justice and called him names for the Humble and giving him work. "Why don't we just let him out of our country? Then we'll be rid of him. We throw you out too, old man. The only difference is him and you is that you're not green, but you might be for the way you act!"

"But don't you see," said the old man to the Munchies gathered in front of his grocery, "that's just it: no difference between him and any of us except the green and a person's colour isn't what makes him a bad anyway!"

Something persuasive in Justice's manner made the grumble and turn away and not seek vengeance but they went off mumbling: "That old man's crazy besides, colour doesn't make any difference to him! he can't tell one colour from another!"

One hot day, a band of green Karans invaded the land. People ran shrieking and shouting in all directions and some hid either in the forests or under the beds. Only Humble stayed out in the open because he didn't realise what was going on and nobody had him of any danger. Suddenly, a green soldier fired, dismounted his white horse right in front of the green and stated with a polite bow, "Your Majesty, Humble, where have you been? Your father is searching everywhere for you. We thought you were. We have come to raze this village to the ground. No depends on you. If you have been treated kindly, I will reconsider, but if you have been treated harshly we will show no mercy!"

He started at the officer who had bowed before him, addressed him as "your majesty." His mind clouded, fuzzy images of his green people the Karans and he to remember falling off his horse, bumping his head then wandering in a daze until he came to Munchie. The abuses, mockery and jests of the Munchies still, his ears like fire and his head still smarted from that cut him and he still tasted the lonely tears sorrow on his cheeks, but he also remembered the fat little baby Munchies who loved even him, remembered his best friend in all the world and "But where's Justice? I must find him!"

He set off with a stream of green soldiers trailing him. He searched high and low for his old friend, last he found him sitting beside a sparkling fountain. Truth just outside the Munchie village. He ran up and threw his arms around him in a bear hug and said, "Here is the kindest man in the world! Where were you? I've looked everywhere for you! You must come back with me to Kara and become my adviser in my for now I know I'm a prince after all and these soldiers!" he said, pointing to the armed Karans.

The old man's eyes twinkled and he laughed at the thought you to be good the minute I laid eyes on you are true to your name and I'd be proud to serve you majesty!"

The captain of the Karans then blurted: "But a haven't told us yet what to do with these blues. Shall them or keep them?"

"What a silly question," replied Humble. "How a speak of slaughtering good people? Any friend of mine. These Munchies are our brothers! must all live together in peace and love, for there difference between ourselves and them, after all, we creatures and creations of the same God!"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 10

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
Thia discovers that her place is really with Buck and the rest of the family.
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
Foul Play
Starring: Goldie Hawn and Chevy Chase.

9:10 Civil Wars

An innocent woman gets caught in a strange murder plot in San Francisco. No one believes her except the detective who falls in love with her.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Ghostbusters

Starring: Bill Murray and Annie Potts.

Friday, Dec. 11

- 8:30 **Too Close For Comfort**
- 9:10 **Equal Justice**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Law And Order**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Saturday, Dec. 12

- 8:30 **Family Matters**
- 9:10 **National Geographic Documentary**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Law And Order**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Sunday, Dec. 13

- 8:30 **Family Matters**
- 9:10 **National Geographic Documentary**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Law And Order**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Monday, Dec. 14

- 8:30 **Family Matters**
- 9:10 **National Geographic Documentary**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Law And Order**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Tuesday, Dec. 15

- 8:30 **Golden Girls**
- 9:10 **Maigret**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Wednesday, Dec. 16

- 8:30 **Saved By The Bell**
- 9:10 **Spotlight**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Thursday, Dec. 17

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Friday, Dec. 18

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Saturday, Dec. 19

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Sunday, Dec. 20

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Monday, Dec. 21

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Tuesday, Dec. 22

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Wednesday, Dec. 23

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Thursday, Dec. 24

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Friday, Dec. 25

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Saturday, Dec. 26

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Sunday, Dec. 27

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Monday, Dec. 28

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Tuesday, Dec. 29

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Wednesday, Dec. 30

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Thursday, Dec. 31

- 8:30 **Uncle Buck**
- 9:10 **Civil Wars**
- 10:00 **News In English**
- 10:20 **Feature Film**
- 11:10 **Mr. Bean**

Gazan artists paint the intifada

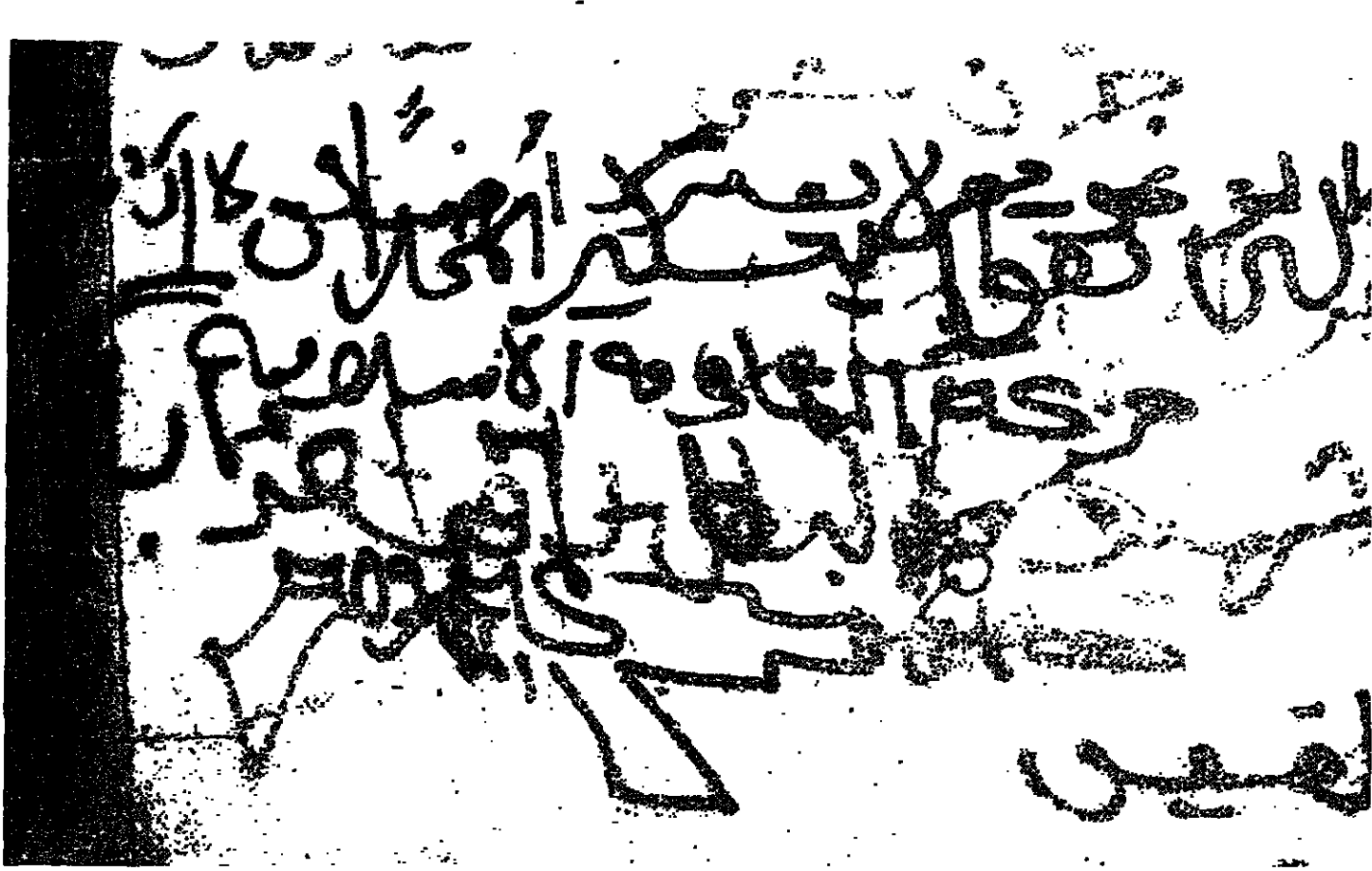
By Ica Wabbe
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Gaza: A narrow strip of misery and squalor, a place of inhuman contradictions: a place of Arab nationalism; a place of religious extremism; a place of tolerance, of oppression but also of hope. It is a place where the sea is break free like the sea, where the sea is break free like the sea, where the sea is break free like the sea.

covered with graffiti, symbol of nationalism and resilience, but also an enraging reason for the Israeli soldiers to shoot and kill the children spraying them, are present in all Mrs. Shawa's canvases. The sprayed messages captured by the artist are meant to "draw attention to the Palestinian-Palestinian and the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue going on for so long on the walls."

American flag and "complete" the image, are the only distractions from the grey, grim walls. Contrasting the simplicity of Mrs. Shawa's walls are Kamel Al Mughanni's and Fayez Al Hasani's highly colourful, overcrowded paintings. Peasant figures, precisely detailed, performing daily chores are predominant in Mr. Mughanni's works. Stern faces of women carrying water jugs and fruit on their heads are presented in interesting compositions. The female figures, with beautifully embroidered dresses, make up a very emotional and romanticised representation of Palestine and the events there.

One highly decorative group of works by the same artist is that of interesting representations of sea themes. Mixed media on specially prepared paper, the canvases have contours in relief and are brightly coloured. The sea is an integral part of the life of Gazans. So ships, fish, anchors, waves are all present in gay combinations. An interesting rendering of the sun, similar somehow to that of the Mayas, and a calligraphy-decorated, stylised representation of a woman and of some kind of metamorphosis constitute two works that especially appeal to the viewer's feelings.



Laila Shawa's silk screen on canvas is one of the works on display at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Gallery

A dove made up of a chequered head and a woman's hair is symbolically flying towards an orange sun shining with the hope for a better future. A naive-style canvas, with

no perspective and depth, is abrim with symbols of Arabic life: A camel, water jugs, embroidered clothes, a palm tree, a bedouin playing the pipe.

Beautifully coloured compositions, made up of infinite images — clenched fists breaking chains, the Dome of the Rock, bedouins, head-dresses, peasants, prison bars, eagles or domestic fowl, mosaics, blue skies. Mr.

Hasani's oils on canvas are charged with symbols and hope. The exhibition will last until Dec. 24 and has opened just in time to mark five years of the intifada.

Mona Saudi's works bring modernity to Fuheis' rugged landscape



Sculpture by Mona Saudi in memory of the 40 soldiers who perished in the desert during the Gulf war.

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To the rugged rocky landscape of ancient Fuheis, west of Amman, Mona Saudi brings a touch of polished contour and modernity. Her latest exhibition of marble sculpture at Al Balka's Gallery provides an illuminating contrast to the jagged weather-beaten stones surrounding the gallery. An inspiring exhibition is more than a room with samplings of an artist's finest creative talent; an environment in harmony with the artist's disposition and outlook can be a vital ingredient for an enjoyable outing to a gallery. Ms. Saudi's unique sculptures and ink drawings currently on display combine these two important components.

While most artists in Jordan choose to show their work in a more centrally located gallery in urban Amman, Mona Saudi decided to exhibit the fruits of her artistic labour in the pastoral setting of Fuheis. "This is the ideal place to invite visitors to view my work," says Ms. Saudi as she gestures around the recently restored gallery. "It's peaceful and inspiring. I spiritually relate to this house and its courtyard," she adds, reflecting on the house of her grandfather. With its alluring alcoves, narrow arched doorways and niches, the two-room gallery displays both drawings and sculptures in an intimate setting.

The collection of ink and crayon drawings expresses a sculpture-like quality, reflecting the skill of an artist who has been dealing with forms for the last 30 years. "I started drawing in secondary school, at the beginning of the late sixties," reflects Ms. Saudi. "In those early days the art life in the country was very poor." Ms. Saudi, who launched her career in Lebanon, opened her first exhibition in 1963 in a Beirut coffeehouse frequented by artists. Thirty years, numerous exhibitions and many sculptures later, her work brought her recognition in three continents, with one of her monumental marbles standing permanently

at the entrance of the Institute of the Arab World in Paris. Her drawings strongly resemble her sculpture, which capture the simple beauty of contour and portray a sense of duality. While these sketches could serve as ready models for pieces of sculpture, Ms. Saudi does not elaborate on them in her work with marble. She prefers to begin her sculptures without ready-made guidelines. For the artist, the drawings are a natural extension of her work. "I've since moved away from ink and paper," she explains. "I produced them too easily." Sculpture remains Ms. Saudi's primary creative domain, although she also writes poetry and has published a collection of poems entitled Sea Of Dreams. She is an avid admirer of unusual stone, and enjoys the challenge of creating form from the variety of marble she collects at times by chance, at others through concerted effort. Her work currently on display is sculpted from marble ranging from light limestone

to the rich shades of green characterised by the Dabaa stone. For Ms. Saudi, the process of creating each sculpture is like an exercise in problem solving. "Usually I work on three separate sculptures at the same time — each in a different phase of development," she explains. "I work with one piece of stone in the early phase; this is when I am working through the problem. Then I have another sculpture in the middle stage when I have already solved the problem, working on defining the piece," she says. The third sculpture is always in its final or flourishing phase, when Ms. Saudi polishes the marble until she reveals the "essence of the stone." To Miss Saudi the beauty of modern sculpture is its point of focus for contemplation. She believes that sculpture is an art which appeals to a wide range of people, regardless of their level education and class. "It is possible for a peasant

to contemplate a sculpture," that fails to lure the attention of a university professor. The ability to comprehend art, she says, comes from within. A trip to Ms. Saudi's exhibition in the middle of the rock-strewn terrain of Fuheis is an adventure into the simplicity of rural Jordan and the sophistication of an artist's world of stone. Ms. Saudi's exhibition, which opened Sunday, runs until Dec. 18.

The courtyard of Al Balka's Gallery in Al Fuheis, where Mona Saudi is exhibiting her works.

Australian director finds a celluloid soul mate

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

NDON — Australian writer-director John Duigan's fresh life in a familiar re in Flirting, a witty ring-of-age film about an adolescent outsider. I think he is a sort of soul mate to me, but I give him credit experiences," the 36-year-old Duigan said of his "gawky teenage hero, my Embling. The second in a planned series about Danny's growth, Flirting is set in Australia in 1965. Filmed two years ago, the film stars newcomer Noah as the comically wry, witty Danny. Thandie is his love interest, the lone black rider at the neighbouring school. A then little-known Nicole Kidman (now Tom Cruise) plays the role of Nicola, revealed in the film to have something reaching a heart. With its eccentric teachers, inedible cafeteria food, film might seem to cover territory already tilled by makers like Peter Weir in

Dead Poets Society and Bill Forsyth in Gregory's Girl. There's also a touch of Woody Allen-style angst to the gauche yet sincere Danny, whose idea of light reading is existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre. But Duigan goes beyond the expected topics of bullies, acne, and sports — football, Danny says, interests him "only from an anthropological viewpoint" — to address deeper issues of colonialism, race, social and civic responsibility. Thandie, daughter of an African academic on a year's lectureship in Canberra, represents new vistas to the essentially small-town Danny, whose flirtation soon deepens into profound mutual respect and, yes, love. The film improves upon its predecessor, The Year My Voice Broke (1987), set in New South Wales in 1962 as Danny pines without much success for the affections of a childhood chum, Freya. "The first film is very much about these characters living on the fringe of a closed society," explained Duigan in

an interview in his rented West London flat. "The second one is also closed, but it's a stage in Danny's life where he has a relationship which blasts him out of that and makes him aware of a much larger world." Duigan said he empathised with his outsider characters, having been one himself during his peripatetic childhood. "I went to nine schools by the time I was 11," said the director, whose father eventually retired from the Royal Air Force to Australia in what Duigan remembers as "the most traumatic move." "One was constantly having to make friends and then leave them behind," said Duigan, who ultimately studied European history and philosophy at the University of Melbourne. "It took me three to four years before I began to feel I was being accepted by a small group of people at school." Of Danny, he said: "I think I used the character to try and express the evolution of my sense of the world, my attitude towards society and sense of feeling perhaps a little bit outside the mainstream."

Was Duigan influenced by other filmmakers? He thinks not, preferring to chart his own pungently idiosyncratic course. "At the time I was doing the first one," he said of The Year My Voice Broke, "I wasn't even aware I was making a film in a quite honoured tradition." "The other thing," he continued, "is that if you're creating characters with a degree of complexity and otherness — outsiders like these ones — then those characters are likely to take you in quite different directions to the ones necessarily charted before." Director and character will pair up again in May 1994, for the saga's third chapter, set in Paris in 1968 as Danny follows Thandie to the Sorbonne. Before that, Duigan will make Sirens, about the Australian painter of erotic subjects, Norman Lindsay, who died in 1969. Finished and awaiting release is a film adaptation of Jean Rhys' 1966 novel Wide Sargasso Sea, shot in Jamaica and starring British actor Nathaniel Parker.

Coppola wants Dracula to put him back on top

By Dan Cox
Reuter

NEW YORK — Get Francis Ford Coppola started on his new film Dracula and he burns with an energy so intense he begins to look like, well, a vampire. His eyes grow large, his breathing a little faster. And suddenly he's vividly describing the buckets of blood used in a scene in Dracula's castle. "The blood kept coming and coming," he said in a recent interview with Reuters. "It all became a matter of where you stop it." Coppola's Dracula, a recreation of the 19th-century Bram Stoker novel starring Gary Oldman, Winona Ryder and Anthony Hopkins, opened recently across the U.S. and it's no wonder the Oscar-winning director is burning. He needs a hit and just about everyone in Hollywood knows it. The 53-year-old director famed for his Godfather series and Apocalypse Now hasn't had a huge success in years and his struggling American Zoetrope Studios

has been in and out of bankruptcy court. His 1990 film Godfather, Part III made money, but was panned by the critics. "You need the support of the studios to make your films," he said. "I'm just trying to be something of a good boy and play the game." Though hounded by the Hollywood studios to direct blockbuster films, Coppola has always shunned them for smaller, more personal works like One From The Heart. That 1982 film was critically acclaimed, but failed at the box office and sent Zoetrope Studios back into bankruptcy court. "Many people think that Zoetrope is out of business and I'm in bankruptcy. It's true that after One From The Heart it's been hard. But we've had some successful films, too," he said, pointing to films like Tucker (1988) and Peggy Sue Got Married (1986). But audiences and the studios have been looking to Brooklyn-bred Coppola to create more classics like The Godfather saga.

Though he conceded that Dracula, produced by Zoetrope along with Columbia Pictures, will never achieve that kind of fame, Coppola said he had fun doing it. A former student of schlock-horror film maven Roger Corman during his days in graduate film school, Coppola filled the film with graphic scenes of bloody body parts and even a decapitation. He denied a report in the Los Angeles Times newspaper that he had cut some of the gore and sex out of the film after a studio audience complained. But the final product is both gory and sexy. British actress Sadie Frost plays the seductive Lucy Westenra in one hotly sexual scene where she has sex with a Dracula transformed into a wolf. "Eroticism was always in the Stoker novel," Coppola said. "And we only made cuts that were normal editing cuts." Coppola said his desire to make Dracula dated back to a childhood love of the book and an absolute admiration for silent-film director F.W.

Murnau's 1921 classic Nosferatu. Thanks to a 1930s film version starring Bela Lugosi, Americans are familiar with the storyline about the 15th-century vampire travelling in 19th-century London drinking the blood of young women to survive. Coppola paid tribute to Lugosi in his film, even so far as to borrow Lugosi's famous line, "I don't drink...wine." With blood flowing freely in Dracula, Coppola said he was aware that some viewers might be uneasy in this AIDS-conscious time. But the director said one of his primary reasons for doing Dracula was to allow him to make another film, The Cure, which documents one man's search for a cure for AIDS. "In an odd way, Dracula may make it possible for me to do some work in that area," he said. In the meantime, Coppola is already at work on his next project for the ailing Zoetrope Studios, a remake of America's other favourite horror film, Frankenstein.

Ocean micro organisms may yield medicines of the future

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

LA JOLLA, California — Scientists are turning from the land to the sea to discover new sources of drugs to fight cancer, AIDS and other diseases, a researcher said.

"Despite an investment of about \$10 billion per year by the drug industry, we are realizing that (medicine-producing) microorganisms in the soil are reaching an end point," chemist William Fenical said.

At the same time, tubercu-

losis, staph bacteria and some other infections are becoming resistant to existing antibiotics, creating an urgent need for new pharmaceuticals. So scientists studying bacteria, fungi and other soil microbes are "frightened to death that we aren't finding new things," said Mr. Fenical, director of marine research at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Mr. Fenical discussed the potential of obtaining medicine from sea microbes during the 30th annual new horizons in science briefing,

sponsored by the council for the Advancement of Science writing.

Researchers have spent a decade studying sponges, corals, sea squirts and other relatively large sea creatures, so far developing some promising drugs for cancer, arthritis and inflammation.

Only now are they collecting and testing microscopic, ocean-dwelling algae, bacteria and molds, thanks to technological advances in scuba diving and in fermenting microbes in salt water, Mr. Fenical and other researchers

said. "Microorganisms in the marine environment are a new source for anti-infectious and anticancer drugs," he said. "We'll be turning more and more to the ocean for a variety of pharmaceuticals."

Mr. Fenical cautioned that it will be at least five to ten years before marine microorganisms yield new medicines because the newly discovered compounds first must be tested on animals.

The discovery of Penicillin in mold more than 60 years ago and the need for medi-

cines to treat infected wounds in World War II soldiers triggered a "gold rush" to mine new drugs from soil microbes and from plants, and later to make synthetic versions of those pharmaceuticals.

Medicine was revolutionized and countless lives were saved as doctors curbed pneumonia, strep throat and staph infections and other often deadly ailments with about 120 antibiotics obtained from soil microbes, Mr. Fenical said. Antifungal drugs, painkillers and medicines to prevent rejection of

transplanted organs also were developed from soil microbes and larger plants.

Mr. Fenical said that his research, funded by the government and Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, so far has found:

— Bacteria, taken from sea floor muds in the Bahamas, produces chemicals called macrolactins, which in experiments inhibited the growth of melanoma and colon cancer cells and the herpes simplex and AIDS viruses.

— Other bacteria, also from the Bahamas, create compounds able to kill some

antibiotic-resistant disease bacteria.

— Bacteria taken from jellyfish in Florida produces salinamides, which are substances that kill certain human cancer cells and are extremely potent against inflammation. Salinamides soon will be tested on humans to learn if they effectively control inflammation associated with arthritis and asthma.

"It's harder to get materials from the sea than from your own backyard," said Ray Cooper, natural products research director at Sterling Winthrop Inc. But

drug companies are to search for drug-producing marine microbes. "The technology of diving and submarine allows us to explore depths of the ocean added."

Research indicates microbes "have as range of chemical and biological activity as their terrestrial counterparts, their potential is nearly high," said Thompson, chief executive of Calbiochem Technologies Inc., a Leucadia biotechnology compa-

The worm in mother's milk

By Dr. Asif Aslam
KARACHI — A new advertisement on Pakistan television shows a woman preparing a meal with rice for her young child. A neighbour walks in, and expresses shock at a mother feeding such food to her child.

She suggests that a certain milk substitute is the best food for infants and explains how easy it is to use. The mother asks about cost. Her neighbour replies: "Surely you don't mind spending a little more to ensure your child's health?"

The message to Pakistan's women is clear: Artificial baby foods are good.

The message flies in the face of science, which has re-affirmed the protection breast feeding gives children. Its effect as a natural method of birth spacing benefits mothers' health. Evidence is emerging that mothers of breast fed children are also less likely to develop breast cancer.

Yet breast feeding is declining in developing countries such as Pakistan, which are riddled with the interlocking problems of child malnutrition, diarrhoea disease and infant deaths, and are desperately in need of ways of promoting child survival.

National figures can be misleading. Says Noorjehan Samad, professor of obstetrics at Karachi's largest teaching hospital, "over 90 per cent of Pakistani mothers do initiate breast feeding." But a national seminar on breast feeding concluded that "these figures have led to optimistic estimates of breast feeding prevalence, and, in turn, to complacency." Hidden in the national data are gloomier trends.

Even if mothers initially breast feed, substitutes are often introduced at an early age.

A study of 900 infants in Faisalabad found that over 50 per cent of children from middle- and upper-class families and over 40 per cent from the lower socio-economic group were wholly or partly bottle fed by the age of three months. Another study of 285 infants in and around Lahore found only 12 per cent percent were exclusively breast fed for two months.

Early supplementation with water, animal milks or infant formula inhibits the flow of breast milk. It also increases the risk of infections from contaminants in the food or feeding bottle. A hospital study of 108 Pakistani infants who died from diarrhoea and malnutrition

showed that 70 per cent were bottle fed.

Many mothers who substitute bottle for breast feeding are unaware of the potential health risks. Female illiteracy, notoriously high in Pakistan, compounds the problem because mothers may be unable to understand the instructions on packages. Even those who can read may not follow them. Since milk substitutes are costly, poor women economise on preparation. Says Dr. Bazmi Inam, a paediatrician working in slum areas of Karachi, "where instructions specify four scoops of the formula, the mother may use two or even fewer scoops to prepare each feed."

The other threat posed by milk substitutes is their possible impact on Pakistan's rapid population growth. The length of time a mother continues to breast feed affects the spacing of subsequent children. Breast feeding is particularly important as many women in Pakistan are either unwilling or unable to use other methods of contraception. One of the fastest growing countries in the world, Pakistan can ill afford to ignore the message that "breast is best."

Women move from breast to bottle feeding not only

because of lack of knowledge and the seductive promotion of "baby foods" but also because of cultural beliefs.

Margaret, mother of two month old Kiran in Essa Nagri, a Karachi squatter settlement, was referred to the Primary Health Care Centre because of her daughter's malnutrition. Margaret was not breast feeding Kiran on the grounds that her milk had turned "kawra" — bitter and poisonous. It is widely believed in Essa Nagri that if a mother becomes pregnant again, or comes under the "shadow" of evil spirits, her milk will turn kawra. Sadhoos (ascetic holy figures) and older women commonly test the mother's expressed milk by putting a worm or an insect, such as an ant, into it. If the worm lives, the milk is considered good. If it dies, the death is believed to be due to the poisonous milk, which then must not be fed to the child. Thus, soon after her birth, Kiran was started on a bottle.

Infant formula promotion can play on such fears and plants the idea in mothers' minds that breast milk may be inadequate. A 1991 national report prepared by government and non-government organisations cites the following advertisements:

"When breast feeding fails, Nutricia helps." "When she can't, Snow PTA can." "When bottle feeding becomes inevitable, the feeding bottles and teats must be sterilised" (Baby safe).

Pakistani mothers pay a heavy price for their increasing infatuation with milk substitutes. The price is in economic terms as well as in increased health risks. Professor Samad estimates that "Rs. 200 to 300 million (\$7.8-\$11.8 million) in foreign exchange are spent annually purchasing these products."

No restrictions are placed on the import of baby milk foods. A market survey in Islamabad found 40 brands of infant formula, produced by 15 manufacturers on sale. An estimated 4.5 million feeding bottles are sold annually in Pakistan. Unrestrained private profit appears to be at odds with public health.

The decline in breast feeding in Pakistan is not a simple trend. It is complicated by cultural, behavioural, economic and even political factors. Addressing the issue will be complex.

The government is a signatory to the U.N.-backed code on the marketing of breast milk substitutes but has yet to back it with legislation — Panos.

Heart pioneer Barnard hospital show their age

By Brendan Boyle

CAPE TOWN — Time has damaged the man and the hospital that pioneered the human heart transplant 25 years ago and made Cape Town the centre of cardiac surgery.

Christian Barnard's 70-year-old hands are swollen with the arthritis that forced him to cut short his surgical career. Dye imperfectly hides the grey in his hair.

Shortage of funds has slashed both the research and the transplant programmes of his once-renowned Groote Schuur Hospital cardiac unit, which is largely state funded.

"It's a great tragedy that this hospital is being allowed to run down like this," Prof. Barnard said.

"This hospital has been a great advertisement for South Africa. We used to take in people from all over the world. Now we have to turn them away."

"When the cardiac unit needs a new heart-lung machine the government throws up its hands and says there is no money," he said. "But I never heard them say

there was no money when the army wanted to go and kill people in Angola."

Nicky Germishuys, who received a new heart from Dr. Barnard's successor, Dr. John Odell, in March 1990, said the hospital could perform at least double the 30 transplants a year that its current funding level allows.

"I know things are changing in South Africa and people say it's not right to spend so much on transplants, but this place must not be allowed to go down the drain," he said.

At a tea party in Groote Schuur Hospital's new wing recently, Germishuys handed Dr. Barnard a certificate of appreciation from South Africa's 94 surviving transplant patients.

Fifty-eight of them, including a man whose new heart was only 16 days old, were at the party. The youngest was 13-year-old Nombuyiselo Mahula, who received her new heart when she was 10. Also present was 67-year-old Dirk Van Zyl, the world's longest-surviving transplant patient. Dr. Barnard gave him his new heart in May, 1971.

Mr. Van Zyl recalls that his white community was outraged that he got his heart from a mixed-race coloured man. His children were shunned at school because "their father had the heart of a black man inside him."

Much has changed in South Africa since then but the red tiled roofs of the colonial-style hospital still dominate the eastern slopes of Table Mountain.

The third-floor theatre where Dr. Barnard made medical history is now just a shell strewn with the rubble of demolition.

This is where Dr. Barnard and a 30-strong team plucked the heart from 25-year-old Denise Darvall, killed in a road accident and implanted it in Louis Washkansky, 55, on Dec. 3, 1967. Mr. Washkansky lived for 18 days after the five-hour operation.

"We are going to rebuild it as a museum with all the equipment that was actually used for the first operation," said hospital spokeswoman

Elke Schutte. "We wanted to be ready for the anniversary, there is no money for that when there will be added."

"I think it's very those days, I could have wanted champagne for every operation, no one would have questions," said Dr. Barnard.

"Now there is no for anything and this that was once so far just another hospital."

The latest victim of camp is Dr. Barnard's successor, Professor John He leaves in March up a job in the United States.

Asked if he was because of the flurries, he said: "Yes, part of it but I don't talk about that too."

Prof. Odell, however, that a women's club had funds last year to a 350,000 rand (\$4 heart-lung machine.

"It's no as bad as was a year or two ago we could not perform operations," he said, "reference to the practice of performing transplants."

Groote Schuur's programme has been criticised as inappropriate for a country that is offering even primary many of its citizens.

But Prof. Odell said techniques and the rejection drug Cyclo had cut the cost of a plant to about 35,000 (\$11,000), well below of many other routine dures.

He said heart-trans surgery also had major offs for other aspects of cine, particularly the plant of other organs.

"We are still keep here. We are doing research and our survival is getting better," Prof. said.

Dr. Barnard remains as a consultant to research in the United States keeps a farm in the African interior.

Virus' camouflaging tactics handicap efforts to develop AIDS vaccine

By Konrad Moller Christiansen

AT THE beginning of the 1980s there were only a few cases of AIDS in the world. Since then, however, immune deficiency syndrome has spread so extensively that the World Health Organisation (WHO) reckons that by the year 2000 there will be at least 40 million people worldwide infected with HIV.

Other estimates say there will be as many as 110 million by then. And with the spread of HIV infection comes a growing fear of AIDS, for which up till now a cure is to all intents and purposes impossible, though in the meantime some of the accompanying illnesses — the so-called opportunistic infections — can be treated successfully, thus prolonging the patient's life. Simultaneously, however, in advanced stages of AIDS neurological failures increase. One can hardly describe it as a life worth living. Thus great hopes are being placed in an AIDS vaccine to provide protection against infection.

Intensive work has been under way on this in nine European and six U.S. laboratories for a good 10 years. Despite these international efforts, which of course also involve the pharmaceutical industry, there is still no HIV vaccine on the market.

According to Professor Reinhard Kurth, President of the Paul Ehrlich Institute for Serums and Vaccines in Laagen, none is likely to be available before the end of the century. Too many questions remain unanswered for that.

This is what emerged from a press conference on "HIV Vaccines — the Hope of AIDS research" held by the Federal Pharmaceutical Industry Association in Frankfurt am Main. The development of an AIDS vaccine is far more difficult than was originally assumed, because HIV viruses behave quite differently from, for example, influenza viruses. And as with classic vaccines there are in theory many possible ways of manufacturing an HIV vaccine. Some can easily be put into practice, others can't.

Some vaccines are already being tested on humans, but up till now no-one has succeeded in narrowing the range of possible options down to one quickly realisable optimum strategy. According to Professor Friedrich Dörner of Vienna, there are many obstacles to be overcome on the way to an effective vaccine that can be put into use. Among other things, the peculiar nature of the virus itself gives rise to enormous difficulties.

We know that it conceals itself in the human organism in the genetic information of the cells which assist the body's immune system. Thus it is practically unassailable. For another thing, the viruses constantly change their superficial appearance.

From the point of view of the virus this is doubtless an effective survival strategy, but an additional hurdle from the point of view of vaccine development. Well over ten years ago only one causative

agent of AIDS had been identified. However, since 1986 two main types have been known to exist, HIV 1 and HIV 2.

According to Professor Helga Rübsamen-Waigmann, Director of the George Speyer Haus Research Institute for Chemotherapy in Frankfurt am Main, although the two extended families are only 45 per cent related to each other, they give rise to similar symptoms.

In fact the situation is more complicated. The two causative agents are highly variable and have already formed a broad spectrum of sub-types which are also constantly changing. In the meantime HIV 1 has formed five sub-families, each of them about 25 per cent different from the others.

Up till now two sub-families of HIV 2 are known to exist. We have to assume that other sub-types will be identified. Meantime the AIDS researchers know from epidemiological data that the individual sub-types do not only occur in particular clearly identifiable regions but that some strains have already begun a trip round the world. HIV 2, for example, has not only been identified in African countries. Investigations by the George Speyer Haus have shown that it occurs no less frequently in two Indian states, Maharashtra and Goa, than in its land of origin.

Even in Germany, 137 cases of HIV 2 infection have been registered. Consequently, the development of a vaccine cannot, as had been pre-

viously assumed, be confined to HIV 1.

Another observation which presents a hurdle for an AIDS vaccine is the fact that several forms of the AIDS virus can occur in one and the same patient. Professor Rübsamen-Waigmann says that the longer someone is infected the broader the spectrum of variations. Within five to ten years the virus can change its genetic information in its host by up to five per cent.

The data collected in recent years permit only one conclusion. Most probably the worldwide epidemic cannot be contained with a single vaccine. In particular we cannot expect that test products whose ability to be tolerated is being tried out in the U.S.A. will also be effective outside the United States.

Therefore the WHO is planning epidemiological studies in Brazil, Rwanda, Thailand and Uganda — countries where the spread of AIDS is particularly high among the heterosexual population. With the aid of an international laboratory network it wants to ascertain which of the virus sub-types are prevalent in these countries. Initially 30 HIV 1-type viruses are to be examined, with HIV 2 to come later.

Since April 1992 blood samples from the countries in question have been sent to the George Speyer Haus. In Frankfurt am Main the viruses are isolated and passed on to a central store (NIBSC) in the U.K. These are then to be analysed by so-called secondary laboratories.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

هكذا من الأصل

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- (1) VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA means the putting to death of a person suffering from incurable and very painful illness, at the desire of the sufferer. "Euthanasia" is derived from two Greek words meaning easy death. There had been a society which striving to get this made legal.
- (2) THE CURTANA is a shortened pointless sword carried before British monarchs at the coronation. It is emblem of mercy and sometimes called the 'Sword of Mercy'.
- (3) Sir James Frazer wrote THE GOLDEN BOUGH. book deals with anthropology and primitive religion and established his reputation as the foremost anthropologist of his time.
- (4) North to south the order reads: Edinburgh, Copenhagen, Vladivostok. Edinburgh, only some sixteen miles north of Copenhagen, is nearly nine hundred miles north of Vladivostok.
- (5) Alligators have shorter and broader snouts than crocodiles, and there are differences in the teeth with alligators the large teeth of the lower jaw shut in the upper jaw, instead of into notches in the margin.

PUZZLES

256. (I = 4, M = 1).

Under the patronage of H. R. H. Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid The Salt Handicraft Training Centre

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The Salt Handicraft Training Centre is a project sponsored by the
Jordanian and the Italian governments under a joint technical
cooperation agreement. The project is implemented by Noor Al
Husseini Foundation, The Salt Development Corporation and
COTECNO, Roma

Peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

would "clarify" its offer to with-
draw "should we hear more from
the Syrians in the direction to

which we are interested."

Mr. Allaf told reporters,
however, that "this is becoming a
vicious circle."

The Palestinian spokeswoman,
Hanan Ashrawi, meanwhile, said

"we are not trying to set up a
Palestinian state" in the current
phase of Mideast peace talks.

But she said Israel was
approaching the talks as an
occupying power

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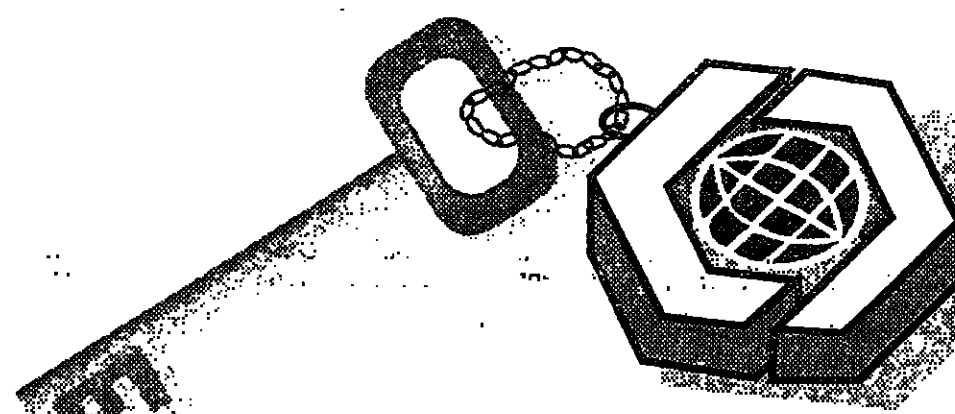
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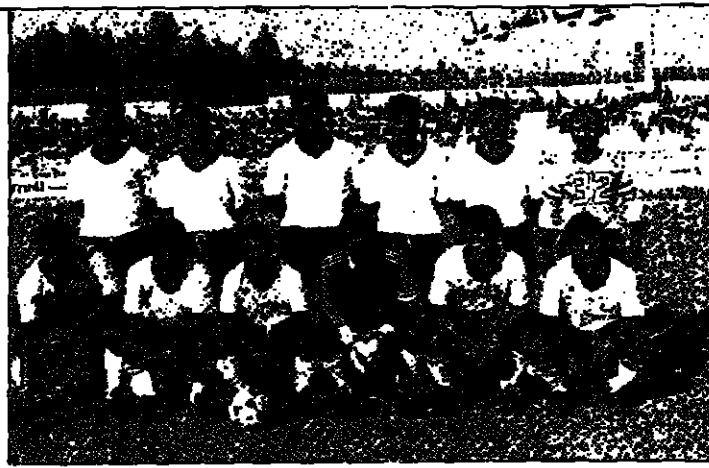
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Al Faisali



Al Ahli

Al Faisali, Al Ahli clash for Jordan Cup title

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali and Al Ahli clash Thursday in the final round of the 1992 Jordan Cup — the final soccer championship of the season.

The match is a much-awaited one by all soccer fans as the winner will be crowned the Jordan Cup champion, while the runner up will be decided after the Al Faisali-Al Ahli match.

The Jordan Cup winner plays the Premier League champion for the Cup Winners' Cup in the opening of the 1993 season. Therefore Al Faisali being the Premier League champion will face either Al Ahli or Al Wihdat.

The Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) has not made it clear in the regulations the matter regarding the possibility of two teams drawing in overall points as runners-up. On ambiguity

that could pose a problem if Al Faisali (the Premier League winners) win the Jordan Cup as well, in which case, the regulations say, the runner-up will play in the Cup Winners' Cup. However a complicated set of possibilities regarding the eventual winner or the runner-up will arise if Al Ahli and Al Faisali draw Thursday.

As Al Faisali and Al Ahli are tied with three points each in the overall standings a possible goalless draw might increase Al Wihdat's chances of winning the title provided they beat Al Qadissieh by one goal at least.

On the other hand if Al Ahli

beat Al Faisali by one goal and Al Wihdat draw with Al Qadissieh then Al Ahli will win the Jordan Cup while Al Faisali and Al Wihdat will tie for second place. In this case Al Faisali will play Al Ahli in the Cup Winner's Cup.

Another possibility will arise if Al Faisali beat Al Ahli 1-0, and Al Wihdat draw with Al Qadissieh in which case Al Faisali will win the Jordan Cup but Al Ahli and Al Hussein will be tied in second place. Therefore the runner-up and the team to play Al Faisali in the Cup Winner's Cup will not be clear.

The JSF might eventually

have to organise deciding matches to make things clear and fair.

Al Faisali will be aiming for a record sixth Jordan Cup title, while Al Ahli will seek to win it for the first time. Al Wihdat has won the title three times.

Meanwhile the JSF has amended the current regulations of the five soccer divisions and has decided to have 12 teams in the first division, 16 teams in the second division, 38 in the third division, and 59 in the fourth division.

No teams will be relegated in the 1992 season, and second division champions Al Baqa'a and runners-up Al Fuhais in addition to Al Jazireh will play in the first division as of next season, at the end of which four teams will be relegated to the second division while four new teams will be promoted to the first in 1994; therefore 12 teams will be maintained in the first division.

STANDINGS

TEAM	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Faisali	1	1	—	3	2	3
Al Ahli	1	1	—	2	1	3
Al Wihdat	—	2	—	2	2	2
Al Qadissieh	—	—	2	1	3	—

Ivanisevic wins battle of big servers

MUNICH (R) — Wimbledon runner-up Goran Ivanisevic won the battle of the big servers against Frenchman Guy Forget to reach the second round of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup.

The Croatian world number four served 17 aces on his way to a 7-5 6-4 victory. In a first-round match dominated by powerful serving, Forget slammed 10 aces past his opponent on the fast carpeted court.

Ivanisevic, close to achieving a remarkable 1,000 aces this year, joined Czechoslovak Petr Korda and Frenchman Henri Leconte as the first three players to advance to the second round on the opening day of the world's richest tournament.

Henri Leconte, returning from a four-week injury layoff, produced one of his typical spirited fightbacks to beat South African Wayne Ferreira in the opening match of the Grand Slam Cup.

The French left-hander, who qualified for the six million-dollar event through his gallant run to the semifinals of this year's French Open, battled back from losing the first set to seal a 3-6 6-3 6-0 victory.

Gaining confidence as the match progressed, Leconte showed no signs of the Achilles

tendon injury which has kept him out of the game since last month's Paris Open.

Leconte struggled to get his game together early on as the fifth-seeded Ferreira confidently took the first set in just over a half an hour with breaks of serve in the seventh and ninth games.

But the South African seemed to lose his nerve as Leconte broke for a 4-3 lead in the second set and went on to take the second set by breaking Ferreira again in the ninth game. Leconte ran away with the final set in just over 20 minutes.

The victory guaranteed Leconte 300,000 dollars for reaching the second round of the Munich tournament, which pays out two million dollars to the winner.

"I only started playing again last week and I've not had a match for four weeks," said Leconte. "I am happy just to be playing here. We'll just see about the rest of the tournament."

Czechoslovak Petr Korda, who beat Leconte to reach the final at Roland Garros, also recovered from losing the first set to defeat Australian Wally Masur 2-6 7-5 6-4.

But Masur, who qualified for the event only after Boris Becker

and Jim Courier withdrew, still went home from Munich with an early Christmas present of \$100,000 for his efforts.

John McEnroe, who has called the money or offer at the tournament 'obscene' arrived in Munich Monday.

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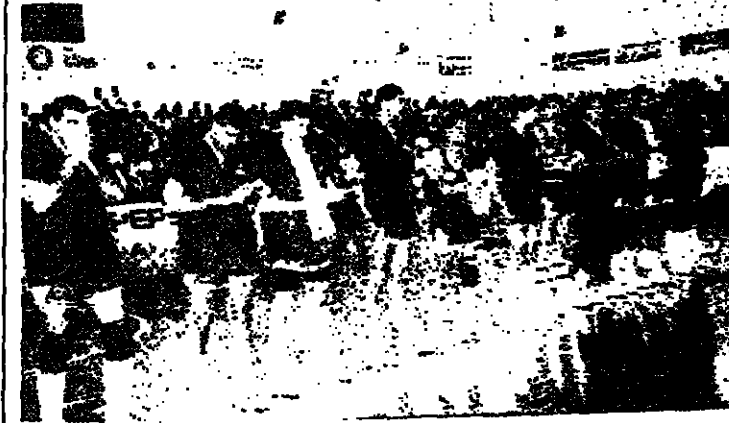
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Title holders Al Orthodoksi

Basketball's 1st tourney division begins Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The final phase of the 1992 basketball championship season begins Friday when four matches will be played in Amman and Irbid in the opening day of the First Division Basketball Championship, organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Titleholders Al Orthodoksi play Homentmen, Al Ahli play Al Abbasi, Al Jalil play Al Watani and Al Jazireh play Al Hussein, as the first round begins and will continue until Dec. 31.

The eight teams will play a two-round competition at the end of which the last two teams will be relegated to the second division.

Al Orthodoksi seem very capable of retaining the title they have become accustomed to win-

ning for the past decade, losing it only once to Al Ahli.

Al Jalil, who finished third in past seasons will provide an interesting competition, especially to the ever ambitious Al Jazireh, who now have a team that is set to challenge the all-time rivals Al Orthodoksi and Al Ahli for the trophy in years to come.

Al Hussein, Al Watani, Al Abbasi and Homentmen are in a league of their own and will be struggling to secure fifth and sixth positions as the seventh and eighth teams will be relegated.

Nine teams have already begun competition in the second division whose top two teams will join the first division next season. The second division teams are Al Karak, Al Ashrafieh, Al Catholic, Al Husam, Al Mafraq, Al Yarmouk, Gazzet Hashem, Anjarah, and Al Wifaq.

Germany, Brazil, England to compete in U.S. Cup

NEW YORK (R) — Three of soccer's most prestigious national teams — Brazil, England and world champions Germany — will join the United States next June in the U.S. Cup '93, a tantalizing appetizer ahead of the 1994 World Cup, organizers announced Tuesday.

The six-game event will serve as a dress rehearsal for the first indoor World Cup match and should also whet the appetite of U.S. soccer fans for the month-long extravaganza that will be held across the country in the summer of 1994.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The moon squares Jupiter in Libra and the double opposition of Moon to Uranus and Neptune indicates that additional information is required before you attempt to make an informed decision.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't allow a stubborn person to keep you in the morning from being with a good friend who can be helpful to you and tonight new ideas of all kinds are excellent for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A partner can make a demand early that keeps you from an outside activity if you allow and tonight influential persons show you how to add to your assets.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind of a different nature should now be encouraged early while later you can join with an outside associate to gain your wishes.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Count the cost of what some anticipated pleasure will be early in the day but later you can get into activities facing you and doing them well.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Do nothing in the morning to any way distress one who dwells beneath your own roof and later you can join longtime close companions and new contact at pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take time out now to bring to

light the various matters you have wished for sometime to improve at your residence and add some modern gadgets.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Put yourself in the position of those who have communicated with you and you will be able to be of much more usefulness and help to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A talent that you are eager to express can be your best means for getting ahead but make sure that you accept in your stride delays in doing so.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do those things at your home that can be effaced quickly and do not require a considerable amount of time to solve in a sensible manner.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever brings you more ability to please routine associates and benefit in daily activities is fine, do so without encouraging some martyr feeling, leaning.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a real chance to get your practical and money affairs solved in a much better fashion, especially if you avoid a time wasting acquaintance.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own ideas are excellent now and you would be wise to follow what your instincts suggest to you and avoid some aggravating family issues.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Nothing carefully planned seem to work out as you had wished due to the fact that there are no exact aspects today but you can avoid depression or annoyance at obstacles and delays.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take some time out get away from a pressing promise for it will work out better if you let it solve itself, then be off to new interests.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An argument of a fixed nature between a higher and a partner should not be permitted to engross your energies and do things with your attachment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A work problem can keep you if you allow from getting benefits from some influential person you have to do into the world of action to contact.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put aside that goodtime or making arrangements for it while you utilize a chance now present to make comprehensive plan for future activity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A family member and an outsider are in a disputative stage but its not your worry so keep out of it and enjoy now as well as long time pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do nothing at home to which a member of your family can take

any exception and find methods by which to tone up daily activities load.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't get in a dispute anyone you like over some matter but show you aware best means to bring support yourself from the individuals.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have some fear or resentment where it has family condition is involved listen to those who dwell by your own roof, follow their lead.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time when a secret anxiety can be seen when a secret anxiety can be seen who can be helpful to you a fretting behind you.

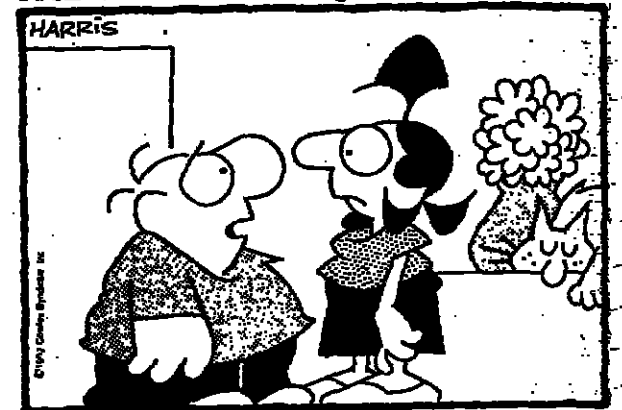
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A determined person who uses up too much of you without consideration can cause you a great deal of grief if you get involved views so be with fascinating it instead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A demanding official executive can cause you a great deal of grief if you get involved views so be with fascinating it instead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You should be in the midst of modernizing your undertakings surroundings and if you go to some wild goose chase you endanger your success in today.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"All the nice stuff you'll say at my funeral...can you say it today when I really need to hear it?"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELROD **YOOST** **FEXPIR** **ROMMEY**

Answers here: A **ELROD** **YOOST** **FEXPIR** **ROMMEY**

Answers tomorrow: **ELROD** **YOOST** **FEXPIR** **ROMMEY**

Yesterday's Jumbles: **TWICE HUMAN SWERVE DENOTE**
Answer: All he left was an old-fashioned clock, so he didn't take long to do this—WIND UP HIS ESTATE

Answers tomorrow: **ELROD** **YOOST** **FEXPIR** **ROMMEY**

Answers tomorrow: **ELROD** **YOOST** **FEXPIR** **ROMMEY**

Answers tomorrow: **ELROD** **YOOST** **FEXPIR** **ROMMEY**

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Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 8/12/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 9/12/92
Sterling Pound	1.5985	1.5940
Deutsche Mark	1.5587	1.5637
Swiss Franc	1.3970	1.4013
French Franc	5.3125	5.3413 **
Japanese Yen	123.78	123.85
European Currency Unit	1.2585	1.2535**

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European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.84	3.59	3.56	4.00
Sterling Pound	7.00	7.12	6.87	6.75
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.00	8.50	7.81
Swiss Franc	6.43	6.31	6.06	5.68
French Franc	10.50	10.25	9.87	9.00
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.62	3.50	3.59
European Currency Unit	10.75	10.43	9.75	8.87

Interest rate for 3 months: 1.5% (U.S.), 1.0% (U.K.), 1.0% (D.M.), 1.0% (S.F.), 1.0% (F.F.), 1.0% (J.Y.)

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	335.30	6.50	Silver	3.76	.080

21 Karat
General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688
Sterling Pound	1.0921	1.0976
Deutsche Mark	0.4380	0.4402
Swiss Franc	0.3588	0.4002
French Franc	0.1286	0.1292
Japanese Yen	0.5535	0.5563
Dutch Guilder	0.3900	0.3920
Swedish Krona	0.1019	0.1024
Italian Lira	0.0499	0.0501
Belgian Franc	0.02131	0.02142

Per 100
Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.79301/810	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	0.0361	0.0391
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1839
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2850	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1859	0.1869
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7650
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1869
Greek Drachma	0.3260	0.3360
Cypriot Pound	1.4680	1.4880

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	7/12/92	Close	8/12/92	Close
All-Share	167.30		166.77	
Banking Sector	120.11		119.75	
Insurance Sector	183.78		183.51	
Industry Sector	229.73		228.83	
Services Sector	237.32		237.10	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2742/47	Canadian dollar	1.5695/705
	1.7635/50	Deutsche marks	1.4065/75
	32.32/36	Swiss francs	5.3550/600
	123.99/4.04	Belgian francs	1384/1386
	6.7450/550	French francs	123.99/4.04
	6.4100/200	Italian lire	123.99/4.04
	6.0750/850	Japanese yen	123.99/4.04
One Sterling	U.S. \$1.5675/85	Swedish crowns	123.99/4.04
Gold (Ounce)	U.S. \$333.35/333.75	Norwegian crowns	123.99/4.04
		Danish crowns	123.99/4.04

Canadian Occidental finds oil in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Canadian Occidental has struck oil in Yemen's Masila region of Hadramout province, the company said. A joint statement issued by Yemen's oil ministry and the company has said the new six wells had a total capacity of 500,000 barrels. Canadian Occidental struck oil in three wells in the same region last December with an estimated capacity of 560,000 barrels. They are Sanou, Kamal and Hajja. The new wells are Himyar, North Himyar, South-Himyar, Kamal, Taweela and Haru. Yemen said last month its oil production would reach between 600,000 and 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) by 1996-97 with a target of 400,000 b/d in early 1994. Current production is 200,000 b/d.

Sony reports sharp drop in profit

TOKYO (AP) — Sony Corp., a world leader in consumer electronics with major U.S. moviemaking and music operations, has said its profit plunged 60.2 per cent in the first half of its fiscal year. The company said the slow economic recovery in the United States, more pronounced stagnation in Europe and a decline in personal spending in Japan hurt its overall results. The company earned 17.9 billion yen, or about \$150.5 million, on a consolidated basis in the six months ended Sept. 30 compared with 45.0 billion yen a year ago. Consolidated sales rose 4.8 per cent to 1.9 trillion yen, or \$15.97 billion, from 1.813 trillion yen a year ago. Sales in the United States rose 10.5 per cent to 315 billion yen, or \$2.65 billion from 285 billion yen a year earlier. Consolidated sales in film entertainment grew 35.5 per cent to 86.8 billion yen, or \$729 million, from 64 billion yen a year earlier. Operating income fell 47.4 per cent from its electronics business in the first half but edged up 4.6 per cent from the entertainment business. The yen's appreciation against the U.S. dollar and the German mark also depressed results. The company sold 75.7 per cent of its products abroad, which means lower earnings for the company when payment in foreign currencies is changed to the yen, said Sumio Sano, a general manager for Sony. But slumping sales at home also pinched profits. "The Japanese market is where (Sony) makes its money... it has the highest profit margins here," said Chuck Goto, an analyst with S.G. Warburg Securities.

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN KUNALY BANK	70,017	2,540	2,550	2,490
THE HOUSING BANK	18,839	3,640	3,610	3,580
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	107,902	1,030	1,100	1,180
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	93,452	3,170	3,150	3,140
JORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	18,665	2,220	2,200	2,180
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	120,026	4,160	4,150	4,140
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	492,946	1,990	1,990	1,970
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	38,428	1,920	1,910	1,900
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	65,320	4,230	4,220	4,200
BUSINESS BANK	4,430	3,150	3,150	3,200
BANK AL RAJAH SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	119,923	5,500	5,500	5,540
BANK OF JORDAN	18,800	18,500	18,500	18,500
ARAB BANK	187,870	119,000	118,500	119,000
JORDAN GENERAL ASSURANCE	2,560	3,200	3,200	3,200
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,238	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	164,082	3,430	3,420	3,380
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,586	2,740	2,720	2,720
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	67,700	3,190	3,180	3,140
JORDANIAN TELEPHONE	33,376	1,560	1,550	1,490
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	33,525	6,100	6,100	6,050
JORDANIAN AIRWAYS	45,242	1,250	1,250	1,240
CREBIT DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	760	0,750	0,750	0,760
VEHICLES OMBERS FEDERATION	520	5,400	5,200	5,200
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER GOODS	81,440	2,660	2,670	2,630
JORDAN HOTEL CORPORATION	1,260	0,660	0,660	0,660
HOUSING, EQUIP., SERVICE & MAINTENANCE	181,528	1,300	1,290	1,290
TRADING ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	70,287	1,230	1,280	1,240
JORDAN OIL & REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	57,959	0,900	0,940	0,920
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,420	1,460	1,420	1,420
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-OSTOR	4,820	5,400	5,670	5,670
JORDAN KUNALY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	353,087	1,860	1,830	1,830
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	179,539	1,730	1,770	1,700
JORDAN DAIRY	77,081	2,610	2,610	2,630
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	72,390	10,850	10,800	10,830
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	25,391	6,900	6,950	6,950
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	36,421	6,380	6,300	6,240
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	123,310	22,500	22,300	22,100
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	66,792	5,800	5,870	5,850
DAR AL DUA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	200,371	9,550	9,800	9,800
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	75,791	3,940	3,970	4,020
THE JORDAN WOODS WITLES	6,905	11,000	10,900	10,900
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	69,300	6,300	6,300	6,300
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	351,995	0,900	0,940	0,920
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	25,833	4,300	4,300	4,350
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	10,918	3,350	3,350	3,300
JORDAN TANNING	1,044	6,500	6,550	6,500
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	548,939	4,360	4,350	4,330
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	124,330	1,090	1,070	1,040
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	8,613	12,260	12,200	12,300
SAFIA INDUSTRIES	20,800	3,240	3,200	3,200
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	3,765	2,590	2,600	2,580
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATERS/JINDO	41,569	1,370	1,380	1,340
SPINNING & WEAVING	52,810	2,200	2,200	2,210
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JINDO	1,850	3,800	3,700	3,700
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	46,915	6,800	6,700	6,750
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	143,116	4,900	4,920	4,880
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	372,292	1,790	1,790	1,700
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	238,217	2,390	2,480	2,480
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	86,295	0,880	0,880	0,810
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	285,664	5,810	5,810	5,790
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	190,004	3,140	3,150	3,120
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	5,700	28,500	28,500	28,500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	21,588	8,800	8,760	8,660

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 14,200
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 1 JD 16915

Laureate stresses market economy as the answer for Africa, E. Europe

STOCKHOLM (R) — The winner of this year's Nobel prize for economics, Gary Becker of the United States, has said the only way African and eastern European countries could survive was to adopt market-oriented policies. He also said he believed the United States was currently emerging from a mild recession and did not require major investment in infrastructure to assist recovery. Dr. Becker, 62, a faculty member of the University of Chicago's economics department, said that both in the former communist countries of eastern Europe and in the Third World, governments had made the fatal mistake of ignoring economic wisdom which had developed over the last 200 years. "What went wrong was you had an experiment, that's what communism was, a disastrous economic experiment," Dr. Becker said in an interview in Stockholm, where he will receive the 6.5 million Swedish crown (\$960,000) prize in a ceremony Thursday. "Naturally, the world is very much concerned about many of the African countries... but it was not the West that grew at the expense of Africa. That is a mistake. It was African policies that prevented growth," he said. Government intervention, price-fixing and bribery had all

taken their toll, and the best solution now was for African governments to model their economic policies on those of Malaysia and Taiwan. "These were poor countries in the 1950s, but they changed their outlook. The single most important thing that could happen to Africa is if they switched to a market-oriented policy," said Dr. Becker. Dr. Becker told a news conference why he believed he had won the prestigious award, which since its creation in 1968 has been dominated by economists from Chicago and other North American universities. "I was trying to supply the economic way of thinking to broader social questions..." he said. "People respond to incentives, whether they go out to buy an orange in the grocery store, or if they are deciding to get married, how much education they should be getting." He said these very different forms of behaviour were linked with a common theme — the systematic response to the benefits and costs of various decisions. The Swedish Academy of Sciences cited Dr. Becker's work in extending the sphere of economic analysis to such areas as education, marriage, divorce and child-bearing, family decisions, crime and punishment, and economic discrimination.

German cabinet approves corporate tax cuts

BONN (R) — The German cabinet Wednesday approved a draft law cutting corporate tax rates which is intended to encourage investment and make the country more competitive. The package, which includes cuts in corporation tax on retained profit to 44 per cent from 50 per cent and on distributed profit to 30 per cent from 36, will be offset by cuts in tax deductions to ensure the effect on the budget is neutral. Finance Minister Theo Waigel said many other countries had already cut their tax rates and Germany had to follow suit if it was to continue to attract investment. "Ensuring the attractiveness of the whole of Germany as a business location for domestic and foreign investors is also an important accompaniment to the economic reconstruction of eastern Germany," he said in a statement. The law, which must be approved by parliament, extends special tax write-offs to encourage investment in eastern Germany by a year until 1996. Other measures, including changes in inheritance tax, are intended to help small — and medium-sized companies — the backbone of the German economy — build up capital. Meanwhile, economists have said the Bundesbank, waging its indefatigable crusade against inflation, will ignore cries for easier credit at its final 1992 central council meeting Thursday and leave interest rates unchanged. As west Germany's annual inflation rate again rises towards the four per cent level and money supply surges, economists see virtually no chance of the German central bank lowering its rates this year. "The Bundesbank will refrain from any relaxation as long as both the consumer prices and M3 (money supply figures) are growing at twice their target levels," said Hermann Rempfer, chief economist at BHF Bank. "I don't see an easing on Thursday. I believe they will wait at least until M3 data improve." The consensus view in a Reuters survey of 15 European economists is that the Bundesbank will

not make any cut in its 9.50 per cent Lombard interest rate and 8.25 per cent discount rate until about February and that in 1993, it will trim those two key rates by less than two percentage points. That means other European countries, which have for months been publicly pleading for the Bundesbank to take its foot off the monetary brake, will be forced to keep their rates high or watch their currencies weaken against the German mark. High German interest rates are widely blamed for recession throughout much of western Europe and for the turbulence that has wracked Europe's exchange rate system. "Lower interest rates would be desirable and welcome because the German economy has slowed down markedly in recent months and the risks to price stability are diminishing," said Ulrich Beckmann, senior economist at Deutsche Bank. "But the probability of an imminent rate cut is very small." Because the economy cooled off so precipitously following the Bundesbank's widely criticised tightening in July — slipping into recession, according to many — some analysts had been forecasting an easing at the final 1992 meeting. But like a choir that knows only one song, Bundesbank officials have been singing with gusto and clarity that one refrain repeatedly to audiences around Europe: There is at present no room for manoeuvre on interest rates. Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger said in a newspaper interview last week that high money supply growth and inflation meant there was no prospect of any near-term easing in policy. Asked if the Bundesbank was under pressure to ease, he said: "As the position now stands, with such strong monetary growth and price increases, we cannot at present act on such wishes." Of the 15 economists polled in early December, only two said there was even a 50-50 chance of an easing on Thursday. "Our best guess is a small rate cut of perhaps a quarter point off the discount rate and a half a point off the Lombard," said Peter Lang, chief economist at Bayerische Vereinsbank.

Oman non-oil exports rise 25% in 8 months

DUBAI (R) — Oman's non-oil exports rose 24 per cent in the first eight months of 1992, compared with the same period last year, the Omani Development Council said in a report. Revenue from non-oil exports and reexport totalled 194.2 million Omani riyals (\$505 million) up to the end August, compared with 156.2 million riyals over the same period in 1991, the Omani News Agency quoted the report as saying. Of the total, 41.5 million riyals (\$108 million) came from reexport of manufactured goods. Fish exports fell 18 per cent to 7.3 million riyals (\$19 million), while vegetable and fruit exports rose 21.3 per cent to 2.8 million riyals (\$7.2 million). Oman, a non-OPEC member oil producer, pumps around 700,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

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THE GERMAN SPEAKING LADIES CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Will be on Friday 11th Dec. 92 from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Amman Marriott Hotel. Entry fee JD 1,000. Children free

CARPETS FOR SALE

2 Asfahan, 1 Kashan, 2 Sana, 2 Old Wool Iranian. Call 671610

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VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GTI model 1990, black colour, mileage: 45,000, full options. Call Tel. 675392

CONCORD

Out For Justice
Starring: Steven Segal
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

ALLIGATOR II
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Thu & Fri. special shows for children at 11:00 a.m.
PROBLEM CHILD

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Friday, Dec. 11, 1992
is the start of an annual holiday for the political comedy.
"Pandemonium" (Abu Awrad)
The 1993 season starts in January.

AHLAN THEATRE

Nabil & Hisham's
AHLAN THEATRE
will be closed for the annual holiday as of Dec. 31, 1992
The temporary suspension of the "Welcome New World" play will end by January 15, 1993.

The British Council

GCE

The British Council would like to announce that entries for the GCE May/June 1993 examinations will be accepted 12-23 December 1992, Saturdays-Wednesdays, from 0900-1230. Candidates are advised to bring with them an official identification and one photograph. We would like to encourage candidates to register during this period, to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

Indian parliament adjourns; over 600 killed in clashes

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian parliament voted Wednesday to adjourn for a week so members could go home and join efforts to halt rising Hindu-Muslim violence in which more than 600 people have been killed.

The decision was taken by voice vote amid uproar as reports trickled in from around the country of more violence in the wake of the destruction of a mosque by Hindu fanatics in the northern town of Ayodhya.

Worst affected Wednesday was Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state where Ayodhya lies, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. It said 21 more people were killed there, bringing the state-wide total to 80 in three days.

Lower house speaker Shivraj Patil tried to take an orderly vote on the adjournment, but was shouted down by members of the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) protesting against the arrest of its two main leaders Tuesday.

BJP members of parliament loudly demanded the release of arrested leaders Murali Manohar Joshi and Lal Krishna Advani, accused of inciting Hindu fanatics to destroy the Ayodhya mosque Sunday and of fomenting the religious carnage that ensued.

The two men, and four other hardline Hindu leaders, were taken to Faizabad, near Ayodhya, to be charged in court.

The arrests were part of tough action taken by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in an effort to pull India out of the deepest crisis of its 18 months in power.

He also announced the mosque would be rebuilt and that he would ban "communal" organizations.

At least 14 of India's 25 states reported lethal violence and a

BJP-called nationwide strike for Wednesday was expected to add to the tension.

Mr. Joshi and Mr. Advani were among the 200,000 Hindus who gathered in Ayodhya Sunday for what was supposed to be a religious ceremony to launch a symbolic construction of a grandiose temple to their revered god-king Rama.

They watched helplessly as fanatics overwhelmed a thin security ring around the mosque they insist stood on Rama's birthplace and tore it down with banners, picks and bare hands.

A whirlwind of religious violence followed swiftly as rampaging mobs of Hindus and Muslims attacked each other with knives and firebombs, despite curfews and heavy security. Many died when police opened fire in desperate bids to halt rioting.

Hospitals were overflowing with thousands of injured.

India's commercial capital of Bombay has been the worst hit with at least 100 killed. Pitched battles in the city of 10 million people raged in slum areas until late Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Bombay was virtually closed as people stayed at home — partly in response to the BJP strike call and partly in fear of violence.

Many hotels put up barriers outside their main doors and only cows were visible on the streets of the business area.

Officials in northeastern Assam said that by Wednesday morning they had recovered the bodies of 61 Hindus, most of them charred or mutilated beyond recognition, after Muslims rampaged with machetes and spears through a district on the Bangladesh border.

They said four Muslims were

killed by police and there were fresh reports of stabbing and arson early Wednesday.

Secular strife has spread elsewhere on the subcontinent.

India evacuated diplomatic dependants from Pakistan's port city of Karachi after 500 people stormed the home of Indian Consul General Rajiv Dogra, badly injuring an Indian guard and ransacking the ground floor.

At least nine people were killed when mobs of angry Pakistanis attacked Hindus, clashed with police and demolished temples Tuesday in revenge for the razing of the mosque.

A summit of seven South Asian leaders due to be held this weekend in Bangladesh had been postponed because of the crisis in India. Dhaka announced Wednesday.

Mobs have set fire to at least 30 temples in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh on India's eastern border, which has a minority population of Hindus.

The furor over Ayodhya, which swept the BJP from the political fringe, has bedeviled India for three years, helping topple two national governments and fomenting religious riots in which more than 3,000 people have now been killed.

Thousands of paramilitary troops peacefully retook Ayodhya Tuesday, despite misgivings from their officers who feared a bloodbath with a quarter of the 200,000 Hindus who gathered in Ayodhya Sunday still there.

Iran has strongly protested to India after unidentified attackers damaged its cultural centre in Bombay during a wave of communal violence. Tehran Radio said Wednesday.

Bazaars across Iran and many Islamic theological schools simul-

taneously closed down to show anger at the destruction of the mosque by Hindu militants Sunday, it said.

In the Gulf state of Qatar, a Foreign Ministry official was quoted by the Qatari News Agency as calling the destruction of the mosque a blatant challenge to Muslims worldwide and urging New Delhi to protect Muslims and their property.

In Tehran, India's ambassador was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry Tuesday hours after the attack on the Iranian Cultural Centre to receive the protest.

Attacks on Hindu temples and community centres spread throughout Britain Wednesday following a deepening crisis in India where more than 600 people have died in sectarian violence.

Police reported eight fresh attacks on Asian religious and community centres overnight from towns in northern England to London in the south.

British police said a mosque and a Sikh temple had been targeted for the first time in three days of fire bomb attacks.

Six Hindu temples in central and northern England had already been damaged in a suspected reaction to the destruction of the mosque in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya. One Hindu temple in central England was gutted in a blaze Tuesday and will be completely rebuilt.

Religious and community leaders of the 1.5 million people of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi descent in Britain made renewed pleas for calm but said they feared British right-wing extremists may be taking advantage of the violence to launch their own fire-bomb assaults.

Congress rejects Gaidar nomination

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's hardline parliament Wednesday refused to confirm President Boris Yeltsin's reformist prime minister, dealing a blow to the government's free market reforms.

Yegor Gaidar won 467 votes, 54 votes short of the necessary majority to be confirmed by the Congress of People's Deputies, said Yuri Nestorov, a member of its Electoral Commission. Out of the 975 deputies who cast ballots, 486 voted against him. Mr. Nestorov said.

In a bitter debate on the nomination, Yeltsin opponents blasted Mr. Gaidar's policies, saying they had led to "the destruction of Russia and its people."

Deputies filed into the ornate St. George's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace to cast their secret ballots in small booths. Hardliners walked shoulder to shoulder with reformers into the gilded, chandeliered hall past TV lights and journalists.

"If we lose here, we'll take this fight to the next congress and pose the same question," said hardline leader Ilya Konstantinov, who predicted Mr. Gaidar would lose. The next session was scheduled for April.

Radio Russia broadcast a plea for all deputies who may be in Moscow but not at the session to assemble in the Kremlin for the

vote. To be approved, Mr. Gaidar needed 521 votes — a simple majority of the 1,041-member congress.

Before the vote, Yeltsin opponents pushed through an amendment to Russia's constitution that would invalidate the president's power if he tried to disband or suspend the congress.

The measure, which passed by a vote of 695-186 with 11 abstentions, amounted to a pre-emptive legislative strike against Mr. Yeltsin, who in the past has threatened to dissolve the hardline parliament.

In a speech before the vote, Mr. Gaidar acknowledged he would make personnel changes if he continued to lead the Russian government, but he pledged not to retreat from reform.

Returning to the Communist-style command economy would mean setting Russia back on the road to "chaos and collapse," said Mr. Gaidar, who has been acting prime minister since summer.

"I am convinced that the problems facing the country can only be resolved by deepening reforms," he said.

Mr. Gaidar said he would preserve the "backbone" of his government, but added that "we will have to make substantive personnel changes."

Since the congress convened Dec. 1, Mr. Gaidar has been the central focus of the battle between Mr. Yeltsin and the hardliners, many of whom were elected to the body in 1990, before the Soviet collapse.

The 36-year-old acting prime minister is the architect of Russia's year-old transition to a free market and an important symbol to the West. In April, Mr. Gaidar lobbied successfully to get the world's seven richest democracies to pledge \$24 billion in aid for Russia.

Even if Congress rejects Mr. Gaidar, however, Mr. Yeltsin might be able to retain him as acting prime minister for up to three months, buying time for the reforms and reassuring supporters in the West.

Mr. Gaidar acknowledged to congress that his reforms had made him unpopular.

"I know the attitude in society and in parliament toward my candidacy," he said. "It is one of the most unpleasant jobs that exists."

In the debate that followed, hardline deputies lashed into both Mr. Gaidar and Mr. Yeltsin.

Sergei Baburin, the leader of the Rossiya Faction, said Mr. Gaidar's policies have led to "the destruction of Russia, the destruction of its people."

"This government has existed for a year already and still hasn't produced an economic program," said Vladimir Isakov, a leader of the hardline Russian Unity faction.

Tajik refugees dying on Afghan border

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — Tajik refugees trapped in freezing weather on the border with Afghanistan are dying by the day, a Russian general said Wednesday.

General Vitaly Gritsan, regional Border Guard commander, said about 20,000 refugees fleeing civil war zones in their homeland had crossed into Afghanistan in the past two weeks.

About 100,000 others remained stranded along the frontier with only Russian Border Guards to help them. Gen. Gritsan told reporters in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.

"Thousands of refugees are scattered along the frontier. It's impossible to count them. Some have makeshift tents from blankets but many have nothing. A lot of them are dying every day in freezing cold," he said.

"At the moment only Russian Border Guards are helping the refugees but day by day the situation is getting worse and worse," he said.

Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting between ex-Communists who have formed a new government in the north and Islamic fighters who control Dushanbe.

Gen. Gritsan, describing the situation as extremely grave, blamed the government for not doing anything to help the refugees and invited outside observers to witness the "human misery."

"I inform the government of Tajikistan about the situation daily. It promised help to take the refugees home but no help is coming. The government must take the International Committee of the Red Cross and the world media down to the border," he said.

Gen. Gritsan could not confirm a report Tuesday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that about 200 refugees had drowned while trying to cross the Amu Darya River to Afghanistan.

"We have no such information," he said.

Gen. Gritsan said he would try to restart multi-party democracy talks.

He has accused them of trying to sideline Inkatha and the six million Zulus he claimed a traditional right to represent.

Chief government negotiator Roelf Meyer urged Mr. Buthelezi and other conservative leaders Wednesday to rejoin the multi-party Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) which collapsed in June.

Mr. Meyer said in a statement after a three-day cabinet meeting at a secret venue in the Zulu heartland Natal that Mr. Buthelezi and fellow conservatives including white-supremacist Andries Treurnicht could not dictate the format for democracy talks.

"Ultimately, negotiations can only resume in a multi-party forum," Mr. Meyer said.

Urging Inkatha and the Conservative Party to return to negotiations, he said elections for an all-race interim government could be advanced if everyone worked together.

"If other parties cooperate and the steps can be completed more quickly, an election can be held earlier, even before the end of next year," he said.

Inkatha, ANC discuss peace summit

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's warring Inkatha and ANC groups met Wednesday in a bid to arrange terms for a peace summit between their leaders Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela.

Police said the two most powerful black movements made it unlikely the summit initially brokered by a multi-party National Peace Committee would take place this year.

Inkatha Freedom Party Chairman Frank Mdlalose told Reuters the talks could help to end township battles which kill more than 10 people a day.

"although this is just talks about talks, it is still very significant. A fruitful first round could be a major boost to peace in the region," he said.

The African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha are the main combatants in a brutal township turf war that has killed 3,300 people this year and more than 7,500 since 1990.

President F.W. De Klerk, Western diplomats, clergy members and leaders of many political parties have repeatedly urged Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi to meet in a public gesture of reconciliation.

The ANC delegation, which failed to turn up for a scheduled first round of preparatory talks last week, was led by Deputy Secretary General Jacob Zuma.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said Mr. Mandela wanted to meet Mr. Buthelezi but would not agree to an ill-prepared encounter.

"We are beyond the time for symbolic political gestures. Some of the previous meetings had no result and even seemed to lead to an intensification of the violence," he said.

Mr. Niehaus said the ANC would insist on agreement by Inkatha to scene-setting measures including a clamp on traditional weapons such as spears carried by Mr. Buthelezi's supporters and political freedom for the ANC in Inkatha-controlled areas.

It would be quite wrong for Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi to have a meeting just for the sake of a meeting," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi has not met Mr. Mandela since the signing of a largely ineffective peace accord in September last year.

He withdrew from negotiations with the government two months ago in protest against a bilateral agreement between Mandela and

De Klerk in September to restart multi-party democracy talks.

He has accused them of trying to sideline Inkatha and the six million Zulus he claimed a traditional right to represent.

Chief government negotiator Roelf Meyer urged Mr. Buthelezi and other conservative leaders Wednesday to rejoin the multi-party Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) which collapsed in June.

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Tanks gone, Sarajevo Airport road reopens

SARAJEVO (R) — The airport road linking besieged Sarajevo to the outside world reopened Wednesday morning when a dawn patrol by United Nations soldiers revealed that Serb tanks had withdrawn from the vital artery overnight.

"At the moment, the airport road is open," declared Larry Hollingworth, operations officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sarajevo.

Fierce fighting along the airport highway had closed the road to all traffic Monday as Serb tanks and rocket launchers poured fire onto Muslim positions and civilian neighbourhoods throughout the daylight hours.

Fighting died down overnight and Sarajevo woke Wednesday to a relatively quiet morning.

Mr. Hollingworth reported that 10 UNHCR trucks carrying relief supplies for the 380,000 people trapped in the capital were already arriving from Vitez, about 100 kilometres to the north.

Relief flights into Sarajevo have been suspended for nine days following two incidents in which U.N. aircraft were hit by small arms fire above the city, and by eight days of heavy fighting in the Western suburbs which flank the airport road and runway.

Reporters who drove to the airport shortly after dawn found a U.N. armoured personnel carrier, manned by French soldiers,

at its usual checkpoint position. There was no shooting in the vicinity.

Buildings flanking the airport road had been so destroyed by earlier fighting that it was impossible to detect any new damage in the area as a result of Tuesday's battle.

Bosnian Serbs made an unexpected offer Tuesday to let all Sarajevo inhabitants evacuate the city.

"Citizens of Sarajevo, prepare yourselves to replace your life in cold rooms by a life in warm rooms, to replace your empty plate by a full one, to replace war by peace," declared a Bosnian Serb statement.

The statement from Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale outside Sarajevo, offering evacuation to all regardless of nationality, religion or age, would mark the end of an eight-month siege which has cost several thousand lives and subjected tens of thousands of people to appalling hardships.

The Serbs vowed they had no ulterior motive for the change of heart and invited international agencies to come "in the approaching days," to monitor the evacuation.

Bosnian Serb military commander General Ratko Mladic told reporters he regretted the violation of the ceasefire supposed to be in force across Bosnia, but denied his forces were responsible.

He blamed the Sarajevo fight-

ing on a Bosnian government attack Monday, saying: "Who forces the Muslim and Croatian units to attack us? Nobody. So we will not tolerate it — we have enough killed and injured soldiers and people."

The Serbian evacuation offer, sent by fax to Reuters in Belgrade, took United Nations spokesmen by surprise. Neither UNPROFOR, the U.N. protection force in the city, nor the UNHCR, the lead relief agency in Bosnia, had heard of it or could offer immediate reaction.

One UNHCR official suggested the Serbs' offer, which would not involve any loss of their military gains, might be designed to reduce pressure for foreign military intervention.

But in Paris, the French Armed Forces chief said he believed the U.N. was on the verge of taking action against the Serbs.

"I believe we are going to have to use some measure of force, for example, by really interdicting flights over Bosnia," said Admiral Jacques Lanxade. This "would be carried out under U.N. auspices by European military aircraft."

Meanwhile, the leader of Bosnia's rebel Serbs said Wednesday that an offer to let the people of Sarajevo leave the battered city was intended to counter Muslim propaganda and was not the prelude to an assault.

Radovan Karadzic, president of the self-styled "Serbian Republic," said Sarajevo was suffering not because of Serb action but because Bosnia's Muslim-led government was not allowing people to leave.

"We could take Sarajevo any time, but we never wanted to defeat the Muslims we wanted to negotiate with them," Mr. Karadzic told reporters.

Diplomats close to the Geneva peace talks said the Serbs appeared determined to tighten the noose around the Bosnian capital, but considered an all-out assault was unlikely.

"We now have to wait to see if it is as serious as it might be," one diplomat said. "But it seems more like a tightening of the noose than a preparation for trying to take the city."

Mr. Karadzic and leaders from Bosnia's government and Croat factions began three days of separate talks Tuesday on the future shape of a peacetime Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb leader accused government forces of provoking recent fighting around the city in an attempt to put pressure on the United Nations for military intervention.

"Mr. (Alija) Izetbegovic is abusing the suffering of these people to get international sympathy and even an international military intervention," Mr. Karadzic said.

Diplomats in Geneva said intelligence reports from Bosnia confirmed that an assault by government forces had caused a weekend of violence.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Court allows Panich to run for president

BELGRADE (R) — The Serbian Supreme Court said Wednesday moderate Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panich could run for the Serbian presidency in elections later this month. Tanjug News Agency quoted court rulings as saying. The court upheld Mr. Panich's appeal against a ruling by the Serb Electoral Commission, the Belgrade-based agency quoted Deputy Chief Justice of the Court Miladin Maric as saying. The commission had ruled he could not run because he had not been resident in Serbia for at least a year as required. The court's decision was binding and Mr. Panich was officially included in the list of candidates running in the Dec. 20 election for the Serbian presidency. "The court decision is final and will be handed down to the Serbian Electoral Commission during the day," Judge Maric said.

Chinese coal mine blasts kill 37

PEKING (R) — Two coal mine disasters in northeast China killed 37 miners, a local newspaper reported in an edition reaching Peking Tuesday. The miners were some of the latest victims in an industry in which nearly 10,000 people died last year — an average daily toll of 27. A gas explosion in the Qitaihe City Coal Mine in Heilongjiang Province killed 20 miners on Dec. 1, Sunday's Heilongjiang Daily said. One week earlier, 17 miners died in a gas explosion in a state-run coal mine in the province, the newspaper said. Four people were seriously injured. The newspaper cited problems in production safety, adding that officials had hurriedly called an emergency teleconference to discuss the issue.

Swiss parliament elects new president

BERNE (R) — The Swiss parliament Wednesday elected Transport and Energy Minister Adolf Ogi to Switzerland's rotating presidency by an overwhelming majority of votes, a federal chancellery spokesman said. Mr. Ogi, a committed pro-European, was elected by 208 votes from the 246-member parliament, only days after the Swiss electorate convincingly threw out a government proposal to abandon traditional isolation

and join the huge European Economic Area (EEA) market. He replaces Foreign Minister Rene Felber, who held the one-year office in 1992.

Earthquake strikes Armenia again

YEREVAN (AP) — A strong earthquake struck southern Armenia and injured several people, one day after the fourth anniversary of the quake that killed at least 25,000 people. The 9.34 a.m. (0534 GMT) quake was centred in the Yekhegnadzor region of the Caucasus Mountains, near Armenia's southern border with the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan, according to Sergei Balasanyan, head of the Armenian Seismological Service. The Earthquake Physics Institute in Moscow said the quake registered 5.1 on the Richter Scale. It caused slight damage and injured two or three people. Mr. Balasanyan said. The region is densely populated with refugees from the fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. On Dec. 7, 1988, an earthquake devastated four cities and hundreds of villages in northwestern Armenia. That quake, which registered 6.9 on the Richter Scale, killed 25,000 people, left 20,000 missing and destroyed the homes of 50,000.

Macedonia will consider modifying name

SKOPJE (R) — Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov will ask parliament to adopt the name "Republic of Macedonia (Skopje)" Wednesday in a bid to overcome international reluctance to recognise the former Yugoslav republic. Foreign Minister Denko Maleski, quoted by Macedonian radio, said the addition of the Macedonian capital Skopje to the name had been suggested by a number of European countries keen to solve the recognition dispute. Macedonia, the poorest of Yugoslavia's former republics, declared its independence last year. But it has failed to get recognition from the European Community because of opposition from Greece, which has a province of the same name. The European Community asked Macedonia to change its name to win international recognition, but Macedonian officials have so far refused saying it could lead to war in the region.



Sarajevo journal wins press freedom prize

PARIS (R) — The Inter Press freedom group's annual prize to 21st anniversary, an editor on the newspaper, Oslodobnja, French-based group said. The prize was awarded to the journal for its role in maintaining an independent through the conflict in Yugoslavia while most and Croatian media had propaganda tools. It is reported on Oslodobnja been killed in the Bosnian and the prize was awarded to them.

Becker to sell Mercedes cars

STUTTGART, Germany — German tennis star Boris Becker will take over two Mercedes dealerships in eastern Germany, the company said. A spokesman said the 21-year-old Wimbledon champion will win 20 million marks (\$11 million) in the luxury car deal in the coastal towns of S and Ribnitz east of Rostock. The contract will be signed by and Mercedes board chairman Werner Neisser. Boris Becker's first dealership in the east is expected to create 100 jobs. Both dealerships will be "Autoshaus Boris Becker."

Queen mother miss Anne's wedding

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Mother may not attend today's second wedding of her granddaughter, Princess Diana, to Prince Charles. The national newspaper's front-page splash, the Daily Mirror declared: "Queen Anne's wedding." The Queen Mother also said the old great-grandmother would miss the wedding. On Wednesday it was announced that 82-year-old Princess Anne would miss the wedding. The Daily Mirror said she believed the queen was "angry that her granddaughter marrying a man who used to be a servant to the queen."

Romanian peasant has \$36 million windfall

BUCHAREST (R) — A Romanian peasant who sold timber to an American firm 52 years ago and did not get paid because of World War II has suddenly found himself a millionaire with \$36 million, a local newspaper said. Buculei of Luciu county, eastern Romania, sold his land and the American company banked the money without him knowing. The Timorel Liber said it was with compound interest over half a century, he grew to \$36 million. Mr. Buculei was involved in the war 1940 when it was allied with many. Timorel Liber said he prevented Mr. Buculei from lecturing his money.

New Zealand sail has rough row to home

WELLINGTON (R) — Zealand man has resigned his job as part-time Santa after children in a Christmas parade pelted him with water and eggs. The resignation came after a similar incident last year. Zealand when a different child when he was killed by children when a Santa in a parade in the North Island, said he was attending the parade had a rude problem. "Last year time to wave to the kids and 'ho ho' but the kids don't damage any more. They were rude. I didn't have time for a hos this year."

Czechs check out new name for state

PRAGUE (R) — Czechs are checking out a new name for their country. Less than a month before it becomes a separate state, the Czech part of Czechoslovakia still lacks a complete state flag and even a name. Czechoslovakia to Great Britain there is no shortage of suggestions of what to call the nation that will result in the breakup of the 74-year-old Czechoslovak Federation. The Czech Crown Lands and Czech Crown Lands question of what's in a name was debated this week by Czech parliament, including all-party constitutional and isolation committee.

